FROM THE CREATOR OF *MUGEN SPIRAL* AND *NG LIFE*

game X rush™

Mizuno Kusanagi

VOL 1

TOKYOPOP®

TOKYOPOP

game X rush

Mizuno Kusanagi

Japan's greatest bodyguard faces off against its greatest assassin in a lethal game of corruption and lies!

Memori is the pretty-boy mascot for his brother's bodyguard agency, solving cases and saving damsels in distress. When he runs into the skilled and witty Yuuki, he thinks he's found the perfect partner...

Until he learns that Yuuki is a trained assassin who seems to know his every secret!

From the creator of *Mugen Spiral* and *NG Life* comes hot bishonen action with a deadly twist!

THE MANGA REVOLUTION
漫画革命

OT
OLDER TEEN
AGE 16+

DRAMA

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gameXrush™

volume 1

Created by:
Mizuho Kusanagi

TOKYOPOP®

HAMBURG // LONDON // LOS ANGELES // TOKYO

gameXrush™

Volume 1
Mizuho Kusanagi

gameXrush™

Volume 1

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12 Years of Being Loved 203

gamexrush™
GAME 1

So who is Game x Rush?

But Memori has a secret
Memori an exceptional bodyguard and Yuuki are paired together as a team
What're you looking at?
It turns out that he actually a she!
Although they're bitter rivals the two are inextricably drawn to each other...
Don't you dare!
I'll just add some breasts on Memori then and..
You think so?
Like a normal shoujo manga!
Why doesn't the real story go that way?!
Writer

THIS IS IT, KUROKAWA ...
I KNOW EVERYTHING ABOUT YOU.
ERK ...!
JUST ACCEPT THAT YOU'VE BEEN DUMPED...
...AND STAY AWAY FROM HER.
WHAT?! WHO THE HELL ARE YOU?! YOU TRYIN' TO START A FIGHT WITH--?!
UHMH!
HOW RUDE I'M JUST TRYING TO PROTECT HER.
C-EXACTLY WHAT... ARE YOU?
ME? I'M JUST A SIMPLE... ...BODY-GUARD.

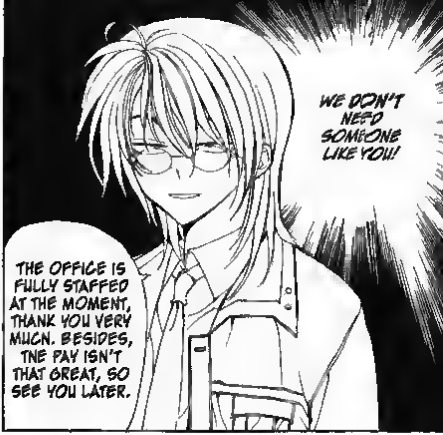
THEY DISPATCH BODYGUARDS OF LOVE AND JUSTICE TO PROTECT THE INNOCENT, THOSE WHO LAY TREMBLING IN FEAR.
THIS IS THE FUJIEDA BODY-GUARD OFFICE.
Right here
SIGH... BROTHER, CAN I PLEASE QUIT MY JOB NOW?
Memori Fujieda
The "Face" of the Fujieda Bodyguard Office
AT LEAST... IT'S SUPPOSED TO WORK THAT WAY.
Sweatdrop
HEE...L-LET ME GET THIS STRAIGHT. THAT GIRL YOU RESCUED FROM THAT STALKER...IS NOW STALKING YOU?
SIGH... IT'S LIKE A SWITCH GOES OFF IN MY HEAD WHEN I IMAGINE THE MONEY THEY'LL BE PAYING US.
The very image of a perfect body guard!
BUT MEMORI-KUN, YOU ALWAYS PROTECT YOUR CLIENTS LIKE A LOYAL LOVER WOULD.
Himiko Koutari
Office Clerk
Handsome bodyguards like you sell well!
Pfft. Disgrace Inl
DON'T BE AN IDIOT! THIS PLACE MAKES A TON OF MONEY THANKS TO YOUR PRETTY-BOY GOOD LOOKS.
LOOK, I'M NOT JUST SOME PRETTY-BOY! I'M GOING TO SCHOOL TO BE SOMETHING MORE THAN JUST OUR MASCOT!
Kenju Fujieda
Fujieda Bodyguard
Office President

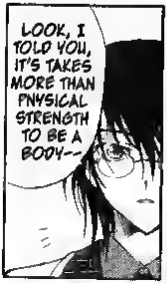
KEEP IT TO YOURSELF, KEN-KUN.
NOT THAT I EVER WOULD, BUT...
THEY HAVE TO BE WILLING TO PUT THEIR LIVES ON THE LINE FOR THE CLIENT!
I CAN'T KEEP TAKING DAYS OFF FROM SCHOOL!
LISTEN, KEN, AT LEAST HIRE MORE BODY-GUARDS!
WELL, THAT'S EASIER SAID THAN DONE. YOU CAN'T JUST PICK UP A BODYGUARD OFF THE STREET!
YOU MUST BE LONELY, MEMORI-KUN.
HUH?
That hurt, Hiroki!!
THAT SNOOTY BRAT!
BUT I'M SURPRISED! FOR ALWAYS BEING SO ANTI-SOCIAL..
THEN YOU'LL NEVER FIND SOMEONE, NOT IN A MILLION YEARS.
LOOK, I'M NOT HIRING ANYBODY UNLESS THEY'RE AS GOOD AS YOU.
..THAT POOR BOY REALLY WANTS A PARTNER.

I can hear you, Himiko sweetie.
HMPH!
THERE THEY GO, SHOOTING THEIR MOUTHS OFF AGAIN!
AHH!
IT'S NOT THAT I WANT A PARTNER...
...I JUST WANT TO TAKE IT EASY, FOR ONCE.

CRAP, I DIDN'T THINK SOMEONE WAS THERE!
I'M IMPRESSED!
YOU MUST WORK FOR THAT FUJIEDA PLACE, HUH?
HEY, SMOOTH MOVE, BRO!
CLAP CLAP CLAP
YEAH. I DO.
HAVING STUPID MUSCLES ISN'T ALL IT TAKES!
I DUNNO. I BET I'M MORE BUILT THAN YOU ARE.
I WONDER IF THAT MEANS I COULD PULL IT OFF, TOO.
Ahem!
IT'S NOT AN EASY JOB.
WHAT'S WITH THIS JERK?
HOW OLD ARE YOU?
YOU'RE A BODY-GUARD? AT YOUR AGE?
UH...19...
YOU'RE ONE YEAR OLDER THAN ME!
But you look so young
I WAS LOOKING FOR A WELL-PAYING JOB, SO I THOUGHT I'D TRY THIS ONE OUT.
OOPS, MY BAD.

Hey
WAIT UP!
Don't follow me

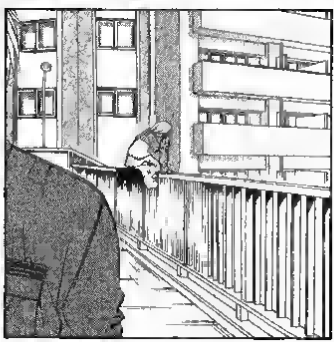

WE DON'T NEED SOMEONE LIKE YOU!
THE OFFICE IS FULLY STAFFED AT THE MOMENT, THANK YOU VERY MUCH. BESIDES, THE PAY ISN'T THAT GREAT, SO SEE YOU LATER.


LOOK, I TOLD YOU, IT'S TAKES MORE THAN PHYSICAL STRENGTH TO BE A BODY--

THEN GO AND BECOME A STUNTMAN OR SOMETHING FOR ALL I CARE!
I'M PRETTY STRONG, SO I'D LIKE A JOB THAT'S PHYSICALLY DEMANDING.
UMM

I'VE ALWAYS REALLY ADMIRED BODY-GUARDS...

HUH?



Thanks again and again!

Hello there, this is Mizuho Kusanagi. Thank you for purchasing this first volume of **Game x Rush!** ♥ This space on the side of the page is usually reserved for creators to share silly stories and personal anecdotes, so thanks for reading it and putting up with me! ♥

Everytime I write something, I find myself squirming while doing it but it's all thanks to my reader and editors that this book even comes out!♥

I wouldn't even be able to finish a single page if it weren't for your continuous support It was thanks to the advice of my editor that we made both the main characters boys, so I was careful not to let it be too similar to my debut work Yoiko no Kokoroe I know I say this all of the time, but it's always hard to actually sit down and make something!

HEY! ARE YOU BOTH OKAY?!
Huff
Huff
Huff
Huff
Huff
Huff
Phew.
LET ME PULL YOU UP!
HE'S ABLE TO HOLD BOTH OF US! HE REALLY MUST BE AS STRONG AS HE SAYS...
SEE, NOW DO YOU BELIEVE ME?
THIS MUCH IS EXPECTED FOR BODY-GUARDS!
Hey, cut me some slack!

HEY THERE, YOU OKAY?
WHAT?! WHERE AM..?
Huh?
Used his jacket as a pillow
WHAT THE HELL WERE YOU THINKING, TRYING TO JUMP TO YOUR DEATH?! AND FROM AN OVERPASS, OF ALL PLACES?! DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHAT WOULD'VE HAPPENED IF I HADN'T BEEN THERE TO CATCH YOU?! YOU MAY HAVE THOUGHT IT WAS ALL JUST FINE AND DANDY, BUT I NEARLY HAD A HEART ATTACK! AND I DON'T EVEN KNOW YOU!
YOU STUPID MORON!
I helped too!
WE'RE GLAD TO SEE YOU'RE ALL RIGHT, MISS.
MAY I HAVE A MINUTE WITH HER?
YOU DON'T REMEMBER?
HUH?
NO, I DON'T
I'M SORRY, BUT I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT.
HUH? WHAT OVERPASS? JUMPING TO MY DEATH?
SILENCE
Huff!
Huff!

I'VE BEEN SO TIRED LATELY, I MAY HAVE DONE IT UNCONSCIOUSLY.
I WAS ACTUALLY HEADED TO THE FUJIEDA BODYGUARD OFFICE TODAY TO SPEAK WITH THEM ABOUT IT.
I SUPPOSE IT COULD'VE BEEN AN ACCIDENT, RIGHT?
SOUNDS UNLIKELY, BUT...
I'M SORRY.
YOU SEE, THERE'S SOMEONE AFTER ME...
...SO I'D HOPED TO REQUEST A BODYGUARD.
カチッ
Sound of switch
ひょい
PLEASE, FORGIVE ME FOR NOT INTRODUCING MYSELF EARLIER! I AM MEMORI FUJIEDA, AGE 19. A BODYGUARD OF THE FUJIEDA BODYGUARD OFFICE.
Split personality
ドラキラ

BUT I JUST RESCUED YOU, REMEMBER?
THIS IS UNDER MY JURISDICTION NOW. YOU MAY LEAVE.
And don't call me "chan."
HEY!
MEMORI-CHAN, HUH? STRANGE NAME...
You must be a big guy there if "Fujioda" is your last name.
HOW ABOUT YOU TEST ME?
I ACT AS YOUR SIDEKICK AND PROTECT THIS GIRL.
I WANT YOU TO HIRE ME.
WHAT, SO YOU'RE LOOKING TO STRIKE A DEAL?!
IF I WEREN'T THERE, YOU'D BE IN REAL TROUBLE RIGHT ABOUT NOW.
WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO SAY?
NO, NOT EXACTLY...
IF I PROVE I CAN DO IT...
...I'M HIRED.

I GUESS IT COULDN'T HURT TO HAVE A RELIABLE PARTNER.
WHADDA YOU SAY?
AND WE'RE SO LOW ON HELP....
FINE.
WOO-HOO!
HOW-EVER.
MAYBE HE'S NOT JUST ALL TALK.
PLUS KEN WILL LIKE THE FACT THAT HE'S EASY ON THE EYES.
And we can toss him out if he's useless
The Fujieda thought process
IT'S YUUKI SHIN.
...MEMORI FUJIEDA-SAN.
A PLEASURE MEETING YOU...
WE'LL BE HOLDING THE INTERVIEW AND THE TEST SIMULTANE-OUSLY TO SAVE TIME.
LET'S START WITH YOU TELLING ME YOUR NAME.

UMM, NOE KIRIYUU-SAN, WAS IT?
IS THIS WHERE YOU LIVE?
YES.
I WAS ADOPTED BY THE LATE OWNER OF THIS HOUSE.
MY PARENTS DIED WHEN I WAS YOUNG, AND HE TOOK ME IN WHEN I HAD NOWHERE ELSE TO GO.
NOW, ABOUT SOMEONE BEING AFTER YOU...
THAT'S—
NOE-SAN, IS THAT YOU?
Gasp!
OH! AUNTIE SHIZUE!
WELCOME HOME. WHO ARE YOUR GUESTS?
WHAT A MARVELOUS ABODE, MY SWEET PRINCESS... ♡
I can feel the weight of the cash already
UM, THANKS?
THIS GUY'S GOT A FEW SCREWS LOOSE ...
Never thought he'd be such a sissy...

Trying to help
The usual gimmick
HE MAY SEEM A LITTLE ODD, BUT HE'S A GENUINELY GOOD GUY.
IT IS AN HONOR TO MEET YOU. I'M FUJIEDA, NOE-SAN'S BOYFRIEND.
WHAT A WEIRD BODY-GUARD.
HUH?
ER...
TH-THEY'RE GOOD FRIENDS!
WORKING HARD AT WHAT?! WHY'D YOU CLAIM YOU'RE HER "BOY-FRIEND"?!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN I'M ODD?! LOOK AT ME, I'M WORKING HARD HERE!
AFTER ALL, I WOULDN'T WANT SOMETHING TO HAPPEN TO YOU AND HAVE YOU LOSE ALL OF WHAT MY DEAR BROTHER LEFT YOU...
.....
GOOD. I'M GLAD NOTHING HAPPENED.
UH, NO...
VERY WELL, THEN. HOW WAS YOUR TRIP INTO THE CITY? YOU DIDN'T HAVE ANY TROUBLE, DID YOU?

MY PREVIOUS QUARTERS WERE IN A DIFFERENT HOUSE, BUT IT CAUGHT FIRE.
THERE WAS A FIRE?
I APOLOGIZE IF IT'S A LITTLE CRAMPED, BUT PLEASE, MAKE YOURSELVES COMFORTABLE.
WHAT'S HER DEFINITION OF "CRAMPED"?
QUIET.
A-ACTUALLY, I THINK IT MAY HAVE BEEN ARSON.
.....
SO, WHO WAS THAT WOMAN WE JUST MET?
OH, SHE'S THE YOUNGER SISTER OF MY FOSTER FATHER.
I ALWAYS FEEL SO UNCOMFORTABLE AROUND HER.
THE OLD LADY CERTAINLY HAD AN AIR ABOUT HER.
I said shut it!
PARDON ME, BUT WHAT DID SHE MEAN BY "WHAT MY DEAR BROTHER LEFT YOU"?
THE INHERITANCE.
ALL THE PROPERTY AND ASSETS HAVE BEEN HANDED DOWN TO ME.
ALL OF IT?!
WOWEES!
MY FATHER'S WIFE PASSED AWAY A LONG WHILE AGO, AND HE ALWAYS TOOK SUCH GOOD CARE OF ME...

BUT MY AUNT WASN'T HAPPY TO KNOW THAT I--A LOWLY ADOPTED CHILD--SHOULD TAKE POSSESSION OF THE FAMILY FORTUNE.
I DON'T HAVE ANY PROOF...
...BUT I'LL NEVER FORGET THE LOOK MY AUNT GAVE ME AS SHE READ THE WILL...
...AND SINCE THEN, SO MANY STRANGE THINGS HAVE HAPPENED.
AND YOU THINK YOUR LIFE IS IN DANGER BECAUSE OF THE INHERITANCE DISPUTE?
.....
I HATE TO EVEN THINK ABOUT IT, BUT IF I WERE TO DIE, MY AUNT WOULD GET THE INHERITANCE.
I-I'M SCARED ...
...BUT MORE THAN THAT... I'M SAD.
.....
Sniff...
ゴロゴロ

C'MON, LET'S HAVE A PARTY TO CELEBRATE OUR NEWFOUND FRIENDSHIP!
PARTY?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
Er-
I PICKED THESE UP AT THE GROCERY STORE.
OOPS.
24/7 Food
THIS KID...
A BODY-GUARD'S JOB IS NEVER ONLY TO PROTECT.
IT'S AT YOUR DARKEST WHEN YOU NEED TO HAVE FUN WITH FRIENDS!
WE CAN'T LET ALL THESE DARK THOUGHTS GET US DOWN!
FOR NOT EVEN BEING A PROPER EMPLOYEE, YOU'RE AWFULLY BALLSY.
...MAY NOT BE AS INSENSI-TIVE AS I THOUGHT.
...TO HAVE US HERE WITH YOU.
YOU'RE LUCKY, NOE-SAN...

YUUKI ...
...THANKS FOR BEFORE.
TICK TICK
HUH?
ALL I'M GOOD AT IS PROTECTING...
OH, YEAH?
I NEVER KNOW WHAT TO SAY WHEN IT COMES TO A CLIENT'S EMOTIONAL STATE.
BUT YOU WERE GREAT ON THAT OVERPASS.
YOU PULL OUT ALL THE STOPS WHEN IT COMES TO ACTUALLY SAVING SOMEONE.

HE MAY ACTUALLY BE A GOOD GUY... AND A GOOD BODYGUARD.

But I like cuttle fish!
Maron! A proper lady doesn't eat cuttlefish!
What's gotten your panties in a twist, Maman-chan?
Enough with the "chan" stuff!

HMM, I DUNNO IF YOU'D CALL THIS MOTIVATION, BUT...
.....
WHY DO YOU WANT TO BECOME A BODY-GUARD?
OH, ALMOST FORGOT THE SECOND QUESTION FOR OUR INTERVIEW...
WOW, OH, YOU REALLY DON'T BEAT AROUND THE BUSH.
HA HA HA!
WHAT IS THIS, A QUIZ?
...MY PARENTS WERE MURDERED...
...WHEN I WAS A CHILD.
NUH?
YEAH, IT HAPPENED RIGHT IN FRONT OF ME.
I WATCHED IT... AND I COULDN'T DO A THING.
I'VE NEVER FORGIVEN MYSELF.
NOT A DAY GOES BY...
...THAT I DON'T REMEMBER THAT HELPLESS FEELING.
I CAN'T STAND BEING WEAK.
I WANTED--
THAT'S ENOUGH.

PEOPLE AREN'T ALWAYS AS THEY SEEM.
EVEN THOUGH HE'S A GOOFBALL...
...HE BEARS A HEAVY BURDEN.
I KNOW.
BUT I GUESS IT'S SOMETHING LIKE THAT.
I KNOW.
...IT'S NOT THAT I WANT REVENGE, REALLY, OR ATONEMENT...
THOUGH...
YOU DON'T HAVE TO TELL ME ANY MORE.
THERE'S SOMETHING BOTHERING ME ABOUT THIS CASE.
TICK
TICK
TICK
IT... IT SEEMS OBVIOUS THAT SHE FELL ON HER OWN.
HUH?
ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED ON THE OVERPASS...
BUT NOE-SAN INSISTS SHE DOESN'T REMEMBER ANYTHING.
THAT'S WHY...
...I WANT TO PROTECT PEOPLE.
SO? DO I PASS THE QUIZ, PROFESSOR?
DOOFUS.
OF COURSE NOT.

WHAT IS IT?
THIS ROOM HAS THREE CLOCKS IN IT!
Gasp!
IF NOE-SAN'S PREVIOUS QUARTERS WERE BURNED TO THE GROUND...
...THEN... THEN SOMETHING SHOULD HAPPEN HERE AS WELL!
AND HER AUNT ASKED HER IF SHE'D HAD ANY "TROUBLE."
TICK
TOK
TICK
TICK
TICK
TICK
TOK
TOK
SO, THE ONLY CLOCKS WE CAN SEE..
SO?
...ARE THE CLOCK ON THE WALL AND HER ALARM CLOCK!
TICK
TICK
TICK
TICK
THERE'S THERE'S ONE MORE
TICK
TICK
TICK
TICK
TICK
TICK
...SOUND COMING FROM?!
WHERE IS THAT ...

TICK
TICK
TICK
TICK
TICK
TICK
TICK
TICK
TICK
TICK
TICK
TICK
TICK
TICK
TICK
What are you doing?!
0:43

IT'S A TIME BOMB!
SO THIS IS IT!
Yeek!

ONLY 40 SECONDS LEFT?! HOW LONG HAS THIS BEEN HERE?!
WHAT'S IT DOING HERE?!
IS HER AUNT REALLY TRYING BLOW UP HER OWN HOUSE?! IF SO...
NO! THERE'S SOMETHING ELSE!
WHAT DO WE DO NOW?! I DON'T HAVE THE TOOLS TO DISARM IT!
AND WE DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME!
HOW STRONG IS THE BOMB, ANYWAY?!
FIRST THING'S FIRST ...
WE GOTTA GET THIS THING FAR AWAY FROM HERE!
HUH?!
HOLD IT RIGHT THERE! I'M THE ONE WHO--
NO.

YOU HAVE TO STAY WITH NOE-SAN.
THAT'S YOUR JOB, RIGHT?
WAIT! YUKI!
ひょい
ガチャ
GRR... SUCH AN IDIOT...

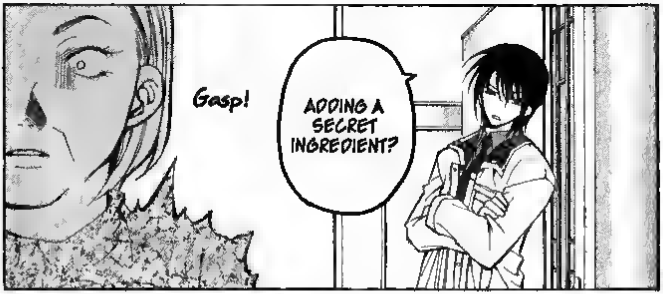
I'M SUCH ...
...AN IDIOT!
WHY AM I ALWAYS SO USELESS...
...WHEN THE CHIPS ARE DOWN AND IT MATTERS MOST?!
WAS THAT... THE EXPLOSION?
GOD, I HOPE I JUST IMAGINED IT...
MEMORI-CHAN?
.....
MEMORI-SAN?
.....
.....
HEY!
GYAAAAH!

I should rip you a new one!
Excuse me?!
I'M THE ONE WHO'S SCARED OUT OF HIS MIND, HERE!
ASSHOLE! DON'T YOU SCARE ME LIKE THAT AGAIN!
OH.
AHEM!
WHY ARE YOU STILL ALIVE?
WAIT ...
WHAT?
HUH?
I.... I HEARD....
WHY WERE YOU COVERING YOUR EARS?
IT WAS A PRETTY CLOSE ONE.
I-IS THAT SO?
I THREW IT INTO A NEARBY RIVER.

I HEARD THE TEDDY BEAR YOU WERE HOLDING BLOW UP INSIDE MY HEAD!
I HEARD BOTH OF YOU BEING BLOWN SKY HIGH!
...GROWN SO SENSITIVE TO PEOPLE'S DEATHS.
I'M GLAD I'M YOUR PARTNER.
I WAS NOT!
IS THAT WHY YOU WERE CRYING?
Ah ha ha ha!
I'VE...
I DON'T WANT ANYONE KNOWING I'M SUCH A COWARD, BUT...
Girl laughing
WE'RE NOT OFFICIALLY PARTNERS YET, REMEMBER, IDIOT?

YUUKI...
THE MAID CAME BY SHE SAID SHE'D HAVE YOUR BREAKFAST READY SOON.
Y-YES?!
I'm impressed you were able to sleep through last night
...I GUESS IT WOULDN'T BE SO BAD IF HE AND I BECAME PARTNERS.
YEAH?
MORNING.
NOE-SAN, TIME TO GET UP!
I'LL GO HELP WITH BREAK-FAST.
WOULD SOMEONE REALLY BE WILLING TO DESTROY HER OWN HOUSE TO GET AN INHERITENCE?
THE HOUSE ALONE MUST BE WORTH QUITE A LOT.
SOMETHING STILL DOESN'T FEEL RIGHT
YESTERDAY'S BOMB...
SHIZUE-SAN, I CAN DO IT.
AND WOULD A LITTLE OLD WOMAN LIKE HER BE ABLE TO...?

I INSIST ON BRINGING IT UP TO HER. I'D LIKE TO START THE MORNING BY GREETING OUR NEW GUESTS.
WELL, I SUPPOSE, IF THAT'S WHAT YOU WANT...


Gasp!
ADDING A SECRET INGREDIENT?

IF YOU'VE GOT THE GUTS TO PLAY DUMB WITH ME, THEN HAND OVER WHAT YOU'RE HOLDING.
W-WHATEVER ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
I DIDN'T THINK YOU'D REVEAL YOURSELF SO SOON.
Y-YOU'RE THAT--!

SO, YOU'D KILL FOR MONEY?
WE'RE NOT SO DIFFERENT! ISN'T MONEY THE REASON YOU'RE SO CLOSE TO THAT NUISANCE OF A GIRL?
ALL RIGHT! YES! THAT LITTLE BRAT'S IN MY WAY!
SO YOU'RE THE ONE WHO'S BEEN THREATENING NOE-SAN'S LIFE, HUH?
IT'S MY JOB.
I'M HERE TO PROTECT HER.
BUT THERE'S SOMETHING I WANT TO KNOW...
YOU KNEW THAT SOMETHING WOULD HAPPEN TO NOE-SAN WHEN SHE WENT INTO TOWN...
YES. THAT'S RIGHT!
SO I'M NOT LETTING YOU...
...GET AWAY WITH ANYTHING.

I USED HYPNOTISM ON HER!
HYPNO-TISM? YOU?
NOT QUITE.
I HIRED SOME-ONE ELSE TO DO IT FOR ME.
SHE WAS TO HEAD FOR THE FUJIEDA BODYGUARD OFFICE, AND ONCE SHE SAW MEMORI FUJIEDA...
...SHE WAS TO THROW HERSELF OVER THE CLOSEST OVERPASS, INTO MOVING TRAFFIC!
TO FUJIEDA?
BUT WHY?!
I'M NOT SURE ABOUT THAT PART.. IT WASN'T PART OF MY INSTRUCTIONS ...
BUT YOU HIRED HIM FOR THE JOB, DIDN'T YOU?!
AH, YES, BUT I LET HIM DECIDE HOW THE MURDER WOULD OCCUR.
THE MUR-DER?
BUT HE'S TAKING TOO LONG DOING IT...
...AND I'M LOSING PATIENCE!

HE'S BEEN HERE, IN THIS HOUSE, THE ENTIRE TIME.

OH, WELL...
I'LL JUST HAVE HIM KILL YOU, TOO.

.....
SO YOU HIRED...AN ASSASSIN?

HAVEN'T YOU REALIZED...?
IT WAS MUCH SIMPLER THAT WAY.
YES.
TELL ME! WHERE IS HE NOW?!

FIRST A BOMB, THEN A STRANGLING?
A LITTLE DULL, DON'T YOU THINK?
NOW, ANSWER ME HONESTLY...
WHO ARE YOU?

IS THAT...
...YOUR THIRD QUESTION, MEMORI-CHAN?

YOU DECEIVED ME.
I SHOULD HAVE SEEN YOU WERE A MURDERER...
I HID IT WELL. AND ISN'T THAT MY GUN?
You swiped it from my bag
SURE. I'VE GOT A JOB TO DO, TOO, YOU KNOW.
WAS THIS YOUR PLAN ALL ALONG?
YOUR JOB...
...AS A TRAITOROUS ASSASSIN?
BINGO.
!!

OOPSIE!
THUD
I'M SURPRISED. YOU'VE GOT A REAL TRIGGER FINGER ON YOU.
DON'T TEMPT ME.
I'VE GOT A JOB TO DO...
AND HERE I THOUGHT YOU DIDN'T HAVE IT IN YOU TO KILL.
...AND I'LL DO WHATEVER IT TAKES TO PROTECT MY CLIENT.

...SHAKING IN YOUR BOOTS.
AND YET, YOU'RE STILL...
HEEE-ISH!
Koff!
Koff!
!!
DAMMIT...
NOT ON... YOUR LIFE...
ARE YOU THAT SCARED OF ME, MEMORI-CHAN?

NOW I'M PISSED.
DECEPTION AND STRATEGY SHOULD COME NATURALLY TO A BODYGUARD.
WHY DID YOU TRY TO GET SO CLOSE TO ME?
I WAS CURIOUS WHEN I HEARD THERE WAS A SKILLED BODYGUARD OUT THERE WHO WAS NEARLY MY AGE.
BUT WHILE YOU LIVE TO PROTECT...
...I LIVE TO KILL
SO, IT WAS ALL A LIE? WHAT YOU TOLD ME ABOUT WHY YOU WANTED TO BE A BODYGUARD--?
AN ASSASSIN COULD NEVER BE A BODYGUARD.
I THOUGHT IT'D MAKE FOR A GREAT GAME.
AND HOW HE RAN OFF WITH THE BOMB WITHOUT A SECOND THOUGHT...
AND ABOUT YOUR PARENTS BEING MURDERED?
OH, THAT?
IT WASN'T ENTIRELY FICTION.

YOU BASTAAAARD!
Memori-san!
AFTER ALL...
...I BORROWED THAT PART FROM YOU.

DID YOU CALL SOMEONE?
.....
SIRENS? A PATROL CAR?
I CALLED THE POLICE TO REPORT NOE'S AUNT WAS TRYING TO POISON HER.
AND... I CALLED OUR OFFICE WHILE I WAS AT IT.
AW, JEEZ. THAT OLD LADY TRIED TO DO IT HERSELF?
Then what'd she hire me for?
Well
SEEMS I CAN'T STAY TOO LONG. THE CONTRACT'S DEFUNCT ONCE MY CONTACT'S ARRESTED.
STOP RIGHT THERE!
IF YOU THINK I'LL LET YOU GET AWAY~~!
Hmm
AS FUN AS IT'S BEEN TO SPEND TIME WITH YOU...
...I'VE GOT SOME THINGS TO SETTLE.
OH! BUT COULD YOU AT LEAST TELL ME HOW I SCORED ON MY TEST?

WHAT? AW, TOO BAD.
YOU FAILED.
LET'S PLAY THIS GAME AGAIN SOME-TIME!
BUT IT WAS FUN, MEMORI-CHAN...

T-THANK YOU SO MUCH... FOR SAVING MY LIFE!
YES?
MEMORI-SAN?
NOW... I CAN FINALLY LIVE IN PEACE.
BUT, ABOUT YUUKI-SAN...
FORGET HIM.
SOMETIMES, THAT'S ALL YOU CAN DO.

KEN?
HEY THERE.
YOU CALLED ME SAYING YOU'D INTRODUCE ME TO SOMEONE YOU'D FOUND FOR THE JOB.
HEY, WHATEVER HAPPENED TO THE NEW RECRUIT?
...
SEEMS YOU PICKED UP A PRETTY WEALTHY CLIENT.
GOOD WORK TODAY.
...I DON'T NEED A PARTNER ANYMORE.
I'VE DECI-DED...
BR.O-THER...
YEAH?
DID I SAY THAT?
UM...YES, YOU DID. DON'T PLAY SENILE WITH ME!

OKAY, BRO ...
SURE THING.
パタン
OH, YEAH?
LET'S GET HOME.
IT SEEMS...THE CURTAIN ON THE GAME HAS RISEN.
GAME IS OVER

game x rush
GAME. 2

KEN!!

WE AT FUJIEDA BODYGUARD OFFICE ARE WAITING FOR YOU WITH OPEN ARMS.

IN ORDER TO CALM YOUR FEARS AND PROTECT YOURSELF, MEET ONE OF THE TOUGHEST NICE-GUY BODYGUARDS AROUND.

ONCE UPON A TIME, JAPAN WAS CONSIDERED ONE OF THE SAFEST COUNTRIES IN THE WORLD.

OVER THE YEARS, HOWEVER, GOVERNMENT CORRUPTION AND TERRORIST ATTACKS HAVE BEEN ON THE RISE.

THIS IS MEMORI FUJIEDA, AGE 19, THE POSTER BOY OF THE COMPANY.

...FUJIEDA BODYGUARD OFFICE, A COMPANY SPECIALIZING IN ASSIGNING BODYGUARDS TO CLIENTS IN NEED.

YOU MIND TELLING ME WHAT'S UP WITH THIS POSTER?!

THUS YOU GET...

I'll p[illegible]ect you!

A tough but nice guy.

If you think you're in danger, don't hesitate! Call Fujieda Bodyguard Office

CHARACTER MEMO

MEMORI FUJIEDA,
AGE 19
DOB: 2/14 (AQUARIUS)
BLOOD TYPE: TYPE A
HEIGHT: 173 CM

I'd originally planned on having Yuuki be the 'straight man' and this kid be the 'funny man' in this comedic story. But it ended up being the opposite. Plus I couldn't help but make him a pretty boy. XD Ibid been so much better if he were actually a girl. XD

You like it? I designed it!
HIS BROTHER IS THE COMPANY PRESIDENT, KENJUU FUJIEDA, AGE 29.
AND THE LONE WOMAN IN THE OFFICE, KOUTARI HIMIKO, AGE 28.
HEY, DON'T GO RIPPING THEM ALL DOWN. WE'RE TRYING TO DRUM UP SOME PUBLICITY!
QUIT USING MY FACE FOR YOUR DIRTY PROPAGANDA WITHOUT MY PERMISSION!
BUT WE HAVEN'T BEEN GETTING A LOT OF CLIENTS THESE DAYS...
WE DEPEND ON YOUR PRETTY-BOY LOOKS TO REEL THEM IN!
Who would bother us after seeing this??
JUST QUIT IT WITH THE POSTERS, OR I'LL BE THE NEXT TARGET! I CAN'T GUARD MYSELF, YOU KNOW!
※-BECAUSE OF A LACK OF STAFF, THE OFFICE RELIES ALMOST ENTIRELY ON MEMORI FOR ALL OF ITS CLIENTS.
IF WORK'S DRIED UP, THEN I'M GOING BACK TO MY COLLEGE CLASSES.
OH, WHAT A MESS WE'RE IN!
WHAT??
NOW WE'RE WITHOUT THE ONLY BODYGUARD WE CAN RELY ON!
Though I suppose there are plenty of helpers...
BETTER DO SOME RECRUITING AT THAT BODYGUARD TRAINING SCHOOL.
YOU DON'T NEED ANY NEW BODYGUARDS.
I'LL COME RIGHT BACK.
JUST CALL IF YOU GET A CASE...

HE'S BEEN THAT WAY FOR AWHILE NOW.
MEMORI-KUN SEEMS A LITTLE DOWN THESE DAYS.
HMM...
.....
NOW, WHERE DID I PUT MY GLASSES?
CRAP.
I BROUGHT IT WITH ME WITHOUT THINKING.

I WAS UNDER THE ILLUSION...
...THAT WE COULD BE PARTNERS.
A FEW DAYS AGO, A YOUNG MAN CAME TO ME SAYING HE WANTED TO BE A BODYGUARD.
INSTEAD, HE ENDED UP BEING AN ASSASSIN.
I THINK HE WANTED TO TEST ME, SOMEHOW.
HE PULLED OFF HIS WORK SO SKILLFULLY...
HE DIDN'T DO ANYTHING SPECIAL...
BUT I WAS ABLE TO FINALLY FEEL SAFE.
MY GRADES ARE PROBABLY IN THE GUTTER.
BOY, I HAVEN'T EATEN IN THE CAFETERIA FOR A WHILE...
Class'll start in the afternoon
Better grab some lunch first
OOPS!
DAMMIT! MY 500-YEN COIN!

HEY.
THANKS A LOT!
NO PROB--

M-MEMORI-CHAN...
YUUKI?!
HEY!
WHAT THE HELL?! GIVE THAT BACK!
IT'S YOUR FAULT THAT I'M AS BROKE AS I AM.
DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE UP TO NO GOOD AGAIN!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

EX-CUSE ME?!
I NEVER GOT PAID FOR THAT BIG YOU BUSTED.
SEE IF I CARE! YOU GOT WHAT YOU DESERVED! NOW, WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE? YOU'D BETTER NOT BE STALKING SOME POOR GIRL!
WHOA, WHOA. SETTLE DOWN.
SEE MY SCHOOL UNIFORM? I'M A STUDENT AT THE TAKATOU UNIVERSITY CAMPUS HIGH SCHOOL.
THE UNIVERSITY AND HIGH SCHOOL ARE BUILT ON THE SAME CAMPUS
I'M JUST COMING HERE TO EAT LUNCH.
I'VE GOT A LIFE TOO, YOU KNOW...
IT'S NOT LIKE I WORK ALL THE TIME.
I got my days off
.....
WHAT'S STOPPING ME FROM TURNING YOU IN TO THE POLICE RIGHT NOW?!
IF I COULD BE CAUGHT THAT EASILY, WE WOULDN'T BE STANDING HERE CHATTING...
GET IT?
ASS-HOLE! THAT'S WHY YOU'RE --!
ME--
MO--
RI--
KUUN!♡

AUTO RESPONSE
OOPS!
AAAAAAH! YOU'RE HURTING MEEEEEE!
WHO'S THERE?!
THAT WAS SMOOTH, MEMORI.
SORRY, TOONO.
And painful
That's why you shouldn't sneak up behind me
Wah ha ha ha!
THAT'S WHAT YOU GET, KURUMI!
YOU KNOW MEMORI ISN'T COMFORTABLE WITH CLOSE CONTACT.
Since when?
FIRST, YOU DON'T STOP BY THE CLUBROOM AFTER FINALLY COMING BACK TO SCHOOL...
...THEN, YOU PULL THIS NONSENSE WHEN I TRY TO TALK TO YOU!
ACK!
ARE YOU ALL IN MEMORI-CHAN'S CLUB?
Toono Kurumi
Memori's classmate

DAMN YOU, YUUKI SHIN!
Getting all chummy!
Though we usually have to drag Memori along to get him to come
Camping trips, cave diving
Ha ha ha! That sounds like him
Blending with the group.
Field trips, mostly
So... what does your club do?
WE'RE NOT FRI-ENDS! WE'RE NOT!
HEY, NOT SO FAST!
I'M YUUKI SHIN. NICE TO MEET YOU, MISS.
MEMORI-CHAN! IS THIS BOY A FRIEND OF YOURS?
He's quite handsome
WHAT IS IT?!
HEY, SERI-OUSLY, LISTEN UP!
YOU'RE OLDER. YOU SHOULD HAVE NO PROBLEM TREATING ME TO LUNCH.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, EATING KATSUDON?! WHAT HAPP-ENED TO MY MONEY?!
HEY, MEMORI-KUN?
I HAVE A SMALL FAVOR TO ASK OF YOU...
TAKE A LOOK AT THIS!
TA-DA!
I'll pro
oul
A rough kid like you
If you think you're in danger, don't hesitate! Call Fujieda Bodyguard Office

Cuz you weren't around
YOUR BROTHER GAVE ONE TO ME WHEN I INVITED HIM OUT FOR KARAOKE!
WHAT...? HOW...? WHERE...?!
HA HA HA HA! THIS IS HILARIOUS!
Your big brother's the best!
THE JOB'S SUPPOSED TO BE UNDERCOVER, SO I TRY NOT TO FLAUNT IT.
I NEVER KNEW YOU HAD A JOB LIKE THIS!
THE OTHER CLUB MEMBERS WENT HOME
I'LL KILL HIM...
Aaaaa ha ha ha!
ARE YOU A BODYGUARD, TOO, YUUKI-KUN?
BUT YOU CAN'T HELP BUT STAND OUT, MEMORI-CHAN.
.....
I SEE.
...AND I ENDED UP FAILING.
WELL... MEMORI-CHAN TESTED ME FOR THE JOB...

Movies and Video Games

It's always hard thinking up the plot for a chapter (It's so hard, in fact, that my dad got worried and forced me to see a doctor about it T_T Oh, dad) But the drawing part makes me feel so good! I tend to draw while listening to my favorite music, or while listening to my assistants gossip all day That's what makes work fun Sure, there've been times when I haven't slept for days, and nothing I draw comes out right, and I start to panic, but it's 100 times better than when I'm struggling to come up with a story XD I wouldn't say I hate having to **think** up stories, though It's the time spent mulling over how to make the story better that gets to me I feel like I'll slip up if I'm not desperate enough over it >_<;; For all sorts of things It probably takes me longer to think up the story than it does to draw it So, once again, I'm giving my editor ulcers because of my incompetence Sorry -_-. Better try to relax more

YOU'VE GOT A STALKER?
WELL, THE TRUTH IS...
トントン
WHAT WAS THAT FAVOR YOU WANTED? I'M SHORT ON TIME, SO JUST GIVE ME THE RUNDOWN.
SNEESN, COULD YOU GET ANY COLDER, MEMORI?
AND SO YOU WANT A BODY-GUARD?
I'm beginning to get scared...
I TOLD NIM TO STOP, BUT THEN, HE STARTED LOOKING FOR ME AT MY OWN NOUSE!
...WNEN I GAVE NIM MY EMAIL ADDRESS, NE STARTING EMAILING AND CALLING NON-STOP!
YES. WE HAD TALKED A LOT DURING CLASSES, BUT...
WHY NOT JUST THINK OF IT AS A FAVOR FOR A FRIEND! ♡
YOU DO KNOW I'LL HAVE TO CHARGE YOU.
SEEING THE POSTER MADE ME SURE THAT YOU COULD BE THE ONE TO PROTECT ME!
EXA-CTLY!

LIFE'S NOT FRIENDLY.
OH, COME ON! I'M A FRIEND IN NEED!
HOW ABOUT I LEND YOU A HAND?
YOU WOULD?!
I CAN WALK YOU HOME AT NIGHT AND STUFF, NO PROBLE—
NOT ON YOUR LIFE!
WHY NOT?
FINE, TOONO. I'LL MAKE AN EXCEPTION THIS TIME.
BUT YOU CAN'T TELL ANYONE THAT I'M A BODYGUARD.
WOW! OKAY, YOU GOT IT! THANKS! ♡
I'VE GOT TO GET TO CLASS. YOU CAN WAIT IN THE CLUBROOM.
RIGHT! WITH THE OTHER MEMBERS.
GUESS I'LL HEAD OUT, TOO.
BYE, SHIN-KUN!

SHIN-KUN, YOU SCARED ME! I THOUGHT YOU'D LEFT.
SORRY, BUT I HAD AN IDEA FOR YOU.
KURUMI-SAN!
YIPE!
WHAT IDEA?
THERE'S... ANOTHER WAY TO DEAL WITH A STALKER, INSTEAD OF HIRING A BODY-GUARD.
REALLY? WHAT'S THAT?
WHAT?
HIRING AN ASSASSIN.

IF YOU SEND A REQUEST, THEY'LL DISPOSE OF YOUR STALKER BEFORE YOU EVEN KNOW IT.
Ha ha!
PLEASE, THAT'S CRAZY!
I'M SERIOUS! AND I ACTUALLY KNOW THE SECRET ADDRESS TO A COMPANY THAT WILL ALLOW YOU TO HIRE ONE.
YOU THINK I'D ACTUALLY GET AN ASSASSIN TO MURDER SOMEONE?
PFFH!
YOU'RE FUNNY, SHIN-KUN!
It's like something out of a manga!
You can only access it once.
JUST SEND YOUR REQUEST TO THIS WEB SITE...
THEN AGAIN, WHO KNOWS? IT COULD BE FAKE.
THIS IS JUST ANOTHER WAY TO KEEP YOURSELF SAFE.
WHAT A STRANGE BOY.
YOU'RE DEALING WITH AN ASSASSIN, AFTER ALL.
.. BUT KEEP THIS A SECRET FROM EVERYONE.
HEH, OF COURSE.

むっ
Grr
WHY ARE YOU HERE, TOO?
SO, TELL ME...
After School
DON'T DO THAT YOU'RE GIVING HER THE WRONG IDEA!
Stop being so paranoia!
YOU SHOULD STAY AWAY FROM HIM TOONO!
BEK!
YEAH. I'M TREATING HIM TO DINNER. WE CAN ALL GO TOGETHER!
KUKUMI-SAN CAME TO GET ME.
IT'S NOT MY FAULT, MEMORI-CHAN!
↑ He's a little rough cuz he's doing the ok for free
.....
I'M GOING TO GO WASH MY HANDS, SO YOU TWO JUST GO SIT DOWN.
He usually never touches anyone!
WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO HIM?
ANYONE MIND EATING AT A DINER?

LOOK, I JUST CAME FOR A FREE MEAL
WHAT ARE YOU UP TO?
COME ON, LET'S SIT DOWN.
HEY.
...WHAT'S GOING THROUGH THAT HEAD OF YOURS.
I CAN'T SEEM TO GET...
WHY ARE YOU FOLLOWING ME?
I'M MORE WORRIED ABOUT WHAT YOU'RE GOING TO DO THAN I AM ABOUT THE STALKER.
LIAR.
HA HA HA!
...I'M JUST CURIOUS TO SEE THE KIND OF WORK YOU DO.
TO BE HONEST...

I WANT TO SEE WHY YOU CHOSE...
...THIS LINE OF WORK...
...ESPECIALLY CONSIDERING THE ENVIRONMENT YOU WERE RAISED IN.
I DIDN'T CHOOSE THIS CAREER.
I JUST SORTA FELL INTO IT.
IT'S ALL I'VE EVER DONE...
...AND IT'S NOTHING TO BE IMPRESSED BY.
HMM...
WHAT ARE YOU GETTING AT?

I WOULDN'T BE SO SURE ABOUT THAT.
.....?
HMPH, EYELINER'S OKAY...
...BUT DOES MY HAIR LOOK WEIRD?
CAN'T LET MY GUARD DOWN IF I'LL BE HANGING OUT WITH MEMORI-KUN FROM NOW ON.
ハイチ

O-OCHI-KUN!
SO...
...WHO ARE THE NEW BOY TOYS?
WHAT ARE Y-YOU DOING HERE?!
YOU CAN'T COME IN HERE!
WHO ARE THEY?
YOU THREE SEEM TO BE HITTING IT OFF SO WELL ...
BUT ISN'T THAT HOW YOU ALWAYS ARE, KURUMI-CHAN?
ARE YOU *TRYING* TO MAKE ME JEALOUS?

N-NO!
STAY A-AWAY ...
WHY WOULD YOU DO THAT, KURUMI-CHAN?
YOU EVEN IGNORED MY LAST EMAIL.
EVEN THOUGH ...
...YOU'D RESPOND SO QUICKLY BEFORE...
KYaaaaaa!
!!
TOONO!
KU
KU
KU
KU
KU
TOILET

YUUKI?!
...!
ガラン
I HAVE TO GET HER OUT OF HERE.
TOONO?
Gasp!

I WAS SO BUSY LOOKING FOR SIGNS OF YUUKI BEING UNTRUSTWORTHY, I COMPLETELY NEGLECTED HER!
BUT I CAN'T LET MYSELF DO THAT AGAIN. SHE'S MY JOB!
I MESSED UP.
OH, MY...
OH...
ME... MEMORI-KUN?
I HATE THIS!
I'M NOT FIT TO BE A BODY-GUARD!
WHY DOES THIS HAVE TO HAPPEN?! WHY ME?!
I'M SORRY...
I'M SO SORRY, TOOHO.

NO...HE COULDN'T OF... HE DIDN'T!
EEEK! LOOK, HE JUST CUT HIM!
PLIP
I ALMOST COULDN'T HOLD BACK WHEN YOU PULLED A KNIFE ON ME.
YOU IDIOT... YOU'RE THE ONE IN TROUBLE.
BUT PLAYING WITH MEMORI-CHAN IS JUST SO MUCH FUN.
IT'S TOUGH HOLDING MYSELF BACK LIKE THIS.
WELL, THIS IS TROUBLE-SOME.
H-HOW'D YOU LIKE THAT?! COME NEAR MY GIRL AGAIN, AND I'LL KILL YOU!

HI-Y'AH!
HEY!
ERK!
SO HE WAS THE ONE THAT GOT CUT?
.....
OH, SHIN-KUN...
YOU OKAY, KURUMI-SAN?
WHAT'S HE THINKING?

HE'D HAVE BEEN IN MORE TROUBLE IF I'D WHIPPED OUT THE BIG GUNS.
THAT KICK LOOKED TO THREATEN, NOT INJURE.
FOR BEING SO RUTHLESS, YOU DIDN'T REALLY FIGHT BACK.
HUH? UH, IT JUST SORTA CAME TO ME...
WHY'D YOU CHASE AFTER HIM?
HE'S INSENSITIVE, SO DON'T YOU WORRY ABOUT HIM.
YEAH, BUT IT DOESN'T REALLY HURT.
It's just a scratch.
WHAT?! HE CUT YOU?!
TRUST ME, PART OF ME DIDN'T WANT TO.
YOU GOT THIS FOR ME?
HERE.
WHAT EXACTLY DOES THAT MEAN, MEMORI-CHAN?!
IT'S A DISIN-FECTANT.
HMM?

AND WHAT ABOUT THE OTHER HALF?!
YOU HELPED US WHEN YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO...
...AND I DON'T EVER WANT TO BE IN YOUR DEBT.
SEE YOU LATER, TOONO.
I'LL SWING BY TOMORROW MORNING TO PICK YOU UP, SO STAY INSIDE UNTIL I ARRIVE.
AND NO ANSWERING THE PHONE.
OKAY.
THANKS FOR GETTING ME THIS.
YEAH, SURE.
I WON'T SLIP UP AGAIN...
.....
...SO JUST STAY HOME TOMOR-ROW.

THANKS.
OKAY...
I'LL BE KEEPING AN EYE ON THE HOUSE, SO SLEEP EASY.
...I'M STILL SCARED.
I KNOW MEMORI-KUN IS TRYING TO REASSURE ME, BUT...
HE'S GETTING...
...BOLDER THAN BEFORE.
TODAY, HE EVEN ATTACKED AND CUT SHIN-KUN!
COULD I REALLY...?
BUT...
WHAT IF HE'S RIGHT...?
Gasp!
...THEY'LL DISPOSE OF YOUR STALKER BEFORE YOU EVEN KNOW IT.
IF YOU SEND A REQUEST...
WHAT'LL HAPPEN IF HE STABS ME, TOO?!
OR MEMORI-KUN?!

SHEESH, WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO ME, PLAYING THE HERO?
HMM?
AN E-MAIL?
HMPH, LET THE GAME BEGIN.
GAME 2/OVER

gameXrush™
GAME 3

I'M A PROFESSIONAL BODYGUARD!
I CAN'T LET SOME SLEAZY STALKER...
...GET THE BEST OF ME!
BUT I CAN'T LET MY GUARD DOWN, OR I'LL REPEAT THE SAME MISTAKE.
OVER THE NEXT WEEK...
...THE STALKER DIDN'T SHOW HIMSELF AGAIN.

Character Memo
Yuuki Shin, age 18
DOB: 3/18 (Pisces)
Blood type:
Type AB
Height: 178 cm

Because of this kid, I've had to use strong, bold words like "kill" and "death," which was a little difficult. I actually like to be very subtle in my language.

WHAT'S BEEN UP WITH HIM LATELY? EVERYTIME I SEE HIM, HE LOOKS LIKE HE'S SPARKLING...
Watch your footing
I CAN'T HELP BUT STARE.
Um
Even if I'm not getting paid
IS ANYTHING THE MATTER, MEMORI-KUN?
YOUR SMILE'S INCREASED BY, LIKE, 70% LATELY. LIKE YOU'RE LIKE A CARTOON CHARACTER.
Ha ha ha!
I GUESS I SHOULD'VE WORN MY GLASSES AND DYED MY HAIR CRAZY COLORS
Just like in an anime
WHO'S IN AN ANIME?
AH, SO THE STALKER SHOWS HIS FACE AGAIN...

WHAT ARE YOU, STUPID?
YUUKI! YOU'RE MY STALKER, REMEMBER?
びしっ!!
HEY! WHAT ARE YOU CALLING ME THE STALKER FOR?
WHAT DID I EVER DO TO KURUMI-SAN?
It's as if I'm following you...
I'M JUST GOING TO MY SCHOOL!
YOU KEEP COMING AROUND EVEN WHEN I TELL YOU NOT TO!
IF YOU KEEP STICKING CLOSE TO KURUMI-SAN LIKE THAT, YOU'RE GONNA PISS OFF HER STALKER.
I WANT HIM TO SHOW UP!
HE HASN'T SHOWN HIS FACE FOR A WEEK!
I'm sure even stalkers have things to do.
I'M ALL RIGHT.
TOONO, I TOLD YOU, I'M NOT UPSET THAT I'M NOT GETTING PAID FOR THIS!
WHAT'S WRONG, KURUMI-SAN? YOU LOOK PALE.
You so are!

.....?
THAT'S NOT IT...
..AT ALL.
YOU'VE BEEN REALLY DOWN LATELY...
...EVER SINCE NE THREATENED YOU AT THE DINER.
NO!
SNIN-KUN!
YEAH, LEAVE.
Ouch man
Gasp!
WELL, I GUESS I'LL HEAD OUT NOW.
ER, NOTHING...
WHAT ABOUT IT?
ABOUT THAT ADD-RESS YOU GAVE ME BEFORE...
UM...

YOU'LL BE FINE, KURUMI-SAN.
JUST TRUST MEMORI-CHAN. HE'LL TAKE CARE OF YOU.
BUT KNOW I'LL BE GLAD TO HELP IF YOU EVER NEED IT.
LET HIM TALK...!
I WON'T LET HIM FOOL ME AGAIN, THAT JERK.
HIS WORDS DON'T MEAN ANYTHING...
...AND THAT SMILE'S A LIE.
IF I BELIEVE HIM...
...HE'LL JUST STAB ME IN THE BACK.

I CAN NEVER LET MY GUARD DOWN AROUND HIM.
YUP. PROFESSOR HARADA TOLD ME TO GET YOU. YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO DIDN'T FINISH THE REPORT FOR HIS CLASS, REMEMBER?
UGH.
WHAT? THEY WANT ME?
MIND IF SHE TAGS ALONG?
YOU'RE BRINGING YOUR GIRLFRIEND ALONG?
She's not my girlfriend!
IT'S OKAY. THIS PLACE IS CROWDED ENOUGH THAT I SHOULD BE OKAY.
BUT, TOONO ...
OKAY, BUT CALL IF YOU DON'T FEEL SAFE...FOR ANY REASON!
I WILL.
THAT JERK WON'T SHOW UP AGAIN.
RING RING
WHO COULD THAT BE?
THE WHOLE ASSASSIN THING SOUNDS FISHY, BUT WHAT IF IT'S TRUE?

IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME...
Incoming Call
Ochi Tomofumi
BEEP
YES?

OCHI-KUN?
SO, YOU FINALLY PICK UP.
WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN?
Guess the assassin was a dud after all
MUTTER.
I'M SORRY. DID'JA MISS ME?
SO, WHO'S THE IDIOT THAT'S ALWAYS HANGING AROUND?
HE'S A REAL EYESORE, KURUMI-CHAN ..
HUH?
ENOUGH!
!!
HE'D BETTER STAY AWAY FROM YOU...
...OR I'LL HAVE TO... TAKE CARE OF HIM.
DON'T YOU DARE DO ANYTHING TO MEMORI-KUN!
I SHOULD HAVE NEVER SENT THAT REQUEST TO THE ASS-ASSIN.
I'M JUST AS BAD AS HE IS!
IF MEMORI-KUN WERE EVER HURT...
I'D NEVER FORGIVE YOU!

YOU JUST HAD TO MAKE HER CRY. DUMB MOVE, NITWIT.
MEMORI-KUN!
YOU'RE THE BASTARD WHO'S--!
SO, YOU FINALLY SHOW UP, HMM?
I NEVER KNEW STALKERS TOOK DAYS OFF.
DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHAT I'LL DO TO YOU FOR MAKING MY CLIENT CRY?
Grrr!
SHUT UP! DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHAT I'LL DO TO YOU IF YOU KEEP STICKING CLOSE TO KURUMI-CHAN?!

I'LL FREAKIN' KILL YOU, DO YOU HEAR ME?!
Grr!
WHAT DID YOU JUST SAY?!
WHAT?!
DON'T SAY THINGS LIKE THAT SO EASILY...
TSK! SO UN-COUTH!
...IT MIGHT ATTRACT ASSASSINS LIKE ME.

!!
AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAH!
NO! NO, STAY AWAY!
WHAT?!
SOMEBODY HELP MEEEE!
WHAT'S GOING ON OVER THERE?!
?
CRASH
CLAK CLAK
.....
?
ANSWER ME!
HELLO?

MEMORI-CHAN?
WHAT?!!?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, YUU--?
TUT-TUT...WITH KURUMI-SAN RIGHT THERE, I'D ADVISE YOU NOT SAY MY NAME OUT LOUD.
WHERE'S OCHI?
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING?!
HE'S JUST FINE.
I HAVEN'T KILLED HIM...YET.

SOME POOR GIRL WHO WAS BEING THREATENED BY THIS FILTH.
A NEW COMMIS-SION CAME IN.
.....
FROM WHO?!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "YET"?! AND HOW DID YOU--?
YOU SAID YOU'D DO ANYTHING TO PROTECT YOUR CLIENT, RIGHT?
SO, MR. BODY-GUARD...
IT...IT CAN'T BE TRUE!

WHAT DO YOU PROPOSE WE DO WITH THE DIRTY SCUMBALL...
...THAT'S THREATENING YOUR CLIENT?
SEE?
I KNEW THIS WOULD HAPPEN.
THAT'S WHY I COULDN'T LET MY GUARD DOWN.
THIS GUY'S THE SCUMBALL!
WHERE ARE YOU RIGHT NOW?

HAS SOME-THING HAPPENED?
SORRY ABOUT THAT, TOONO.
I HAVE TO GO TO HIM...
NOTHING SERIOUS
SO, GO.
YOU HAVE SOME-WHERE YOU NEED TO BE, RIGHT?
HUH?
I'M CANCELING MY BODYGUARD REQUEST.
I DON'T NEED YOU PROTECTING ME ANYMORE.
BUT I CAN'T LEAVE HER ALONE AGAIN.
IT'S OKAY.

Background Music

There's all sorts of music I listen to while I work. As for my assistants, they love the bands BUMP OF CHICKEN, and UNICORN (with Tamio Okuda). I put all my favorites on a minidisc player... but among all the anime songs I put on there, for some reason "Kanpaku Sengen" by Masashi Sada and "Sarai" by Shinji Tanimura always take over the rest. They sure are good songs. Recently, I've been obsessed with the song "Everyone's Song"! It's an old song that I'd never heard before. "Metropolitan Museum" and "Feeling of My Tail" are some of my faves! They're just so cute! There were a lot of songs in the "Everyone's Song" album that I didn't know, but "Everyone's Song" still makes me cry! I also like listening to the radio. But, not only is the signal weak, there are hardly any stations in my area, so there's really only one channel I can listen to clearly.

At least I can listen to plenty of SMAP on the radio. XD

NO.
DID TOONO REALLY PUT IN THAT REQUEST FOR AN ASSASIN?
UNTIL THIS CASE IS RESOLVED, YOU'RE STILL MY CLIENT.
JUST WAIT HERE, AND I'LL SETTLE THIS.
IS SHE TRULY THAT SCARED? HAS SHE REALLY RUN OUT OF OPTIONS?
I HAVE TO MAKE SURE OF IT.

THIS IS THE ROOF OF THE EASTERN WING, LIKE HE SAID...
...OR NOT.
Hah! heh heh
ANOTHER BOMB?!
...BUT THERE'S NO ONE HERE.
Hmm?
I-IS SOMEONE THERE?! G-GET ME DOWN FROM HERE!

A-ANYONE!
PLEASE! HELP ME!
What?!
じー
TH-THAT CREEP TIED ME UP!
THERE'S NOT A SCRATCH ON YOU. WHAT WAS THAT SHRIEK FOR?
I-I WON'T TALK THAT W-WAY AGAIN!
AND WILL YOU LEAVE TOONO ALONE?
Y-YES..
Not afraid of heights →
YEAH, SO WHAT?
Wuss
I THOUGHT YOU SAID YOU WERE GOING TO KILL ME.

Sigh.
Huff! Huff!
HE'S PRETTY HEAVY, EH?
NNGH!
PANT

YUUKI?!
WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS AGAIN?!
ギシギシ
LIKE I SAID BEFORE, I WANT TO PLAY A GAME WITH YOU.
YO.

NOW, IT'S TIME TO SHOW ME JUST HOW STRONG YOU ARE.
I DON'T HAVE TIME TO PLAY GAMES WITH YOU!
AW, DON'T BE LIKE THAT, MEMORI-CHAN.
THIS TIME, I'M AIMING FOR YOUR HAND.
IMPRES-SIVE.
#MPH. NOT EVEN A TWITCH.

READY TO LET GO OF HIM TO SAVE YOURSELF, MEMORI-CHAN?
SHUT UP!
.....
NEVER.
I THOUGHT BODY-GUARDS WERE ON THE SIDE OF GOOD.
WOULD YOU SERIOUSLY DIE FOR THIS LOW-LIFE?
OF COURSE I WANT TO RUN AWAY RIGHT NOW, OKAY?!

I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU WANT ME TO PROVE, BUT I'M NOT STRONG!
I'M TERRIFIED OF PEOPLE DYING BECAUSE I'M A COWARD!
I TOOK THIS JOB BECAUSE I KNOW WHAT IT MEANS TO BE SCARED OF LOSING SOMEONE!
LIKE A CERTAIN SOMEONE ONCE SAID...
KILLING HIM WON'T SAVE HER!
BESIDES, IF I LET GO, TOONO WOULD BE A MURDERER.
SHE'D NEVER FORGIVE HERSELF FOR IT!

...“A BODY-GUARD'S JOB ISN'T ONLY TO PROTECT.”
TRUE, BUT I STILL HAVE A JOB TO DO.
OH GOD, HE'S REALLY GOING TO SHOOT!
!
THIS IS IT. THIS IS THE END.
CLICK

MISSION ACCOMPLISHED!
Click?
THE DUMB LOOK ON OCHI-KUN'S FACE...
...WILL BE PROOF ENOUGH TO MY CLIENT THAT MY JOB HERE IS DONE.
WHAT?!
TOO BAD HE FELL ASLEEP SO SOON.
I wanted to torture him some more
HEY!
Sadistic →
WAIT, WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?!
!!!!
OOPS. GOOD THING I TIED HIM UP WITH AN EXTRA WIRE ALONG THE ROPE.

THERE'S ONE THING I'LL SAY...
HE'S JUST TOO EASY TO TEASE.
LIFE ISN'T FAIR!!
Waaaah,
I want my brother!
どくん
どくん
どくん
どくん
どくん
ぷら〜ん
KURUMI-SAN NEVER PUT IN A HIT ON HIM.
THEN, WHY DID YOU--?
I'LL ADMIT, SHE'S GOT BALLS ...
I GOT A REQUEST FOR HELP.
SHE HAD THE NERVE TO ASK AN ASSAS-SIN...
...NOT TO LET MEMORI-KUN BE KILLED.

AND NOT LIKE I'D KILL WITHOUT GETTING PAID.
WELL, WHATEVER THE CASE, IT MADE ME GIDDY GETTING A REQUEST FOR HELP.
I guess it sorta got mixed up with the body guard request
SHE WAS REALLY ONLY THINKING OF PROTECTING YOU, Y'KNOW? NOT NERSELF.
I KEPT SNEAKING UP BEHIND HIM, PEEKING IN THROUGH WINDOWS, AND HIDING IN THE SHADOWS.
OTHERWISE, HE'D NEVER UNDERSTAND WHAT IT'S LIKE FOR HIS VICTIM!
...TRY STALKING OCHI-KUN FOR A CHANGE!
HEY, AND LISTEN TO THIS! THAT REQUEST ENCOURAGED ME TO...
WHAT?!
I SHOULDN'T BE LAUGHING! IT'S BECAUSE OF HIM THAT I...
Ahem...
Boy, it sure was fun. He would run at the sight of me!
IT GOT TO WHERE HE WOULDN'T PUT A FOOT OUTSIDE HIS DOOR!
That's why he didn't show up for a whole week!

NMM?
WAIT A SEC. SO NOW DID I GET TANGLED UP IN THIS?
Whatever
I WOULDN'T HAVE TAKEN THE JOB IF IT DIDN'T MEAN GETTING TO MESS WITH YOU A LITTLE BIT.
It wouldn't been a fare!
WHAT?! DO YOU HAVE A GRUDGE AGAINST ME OR SOMETHING?!
HA HA HA!
Don't try with me!
IF YOU TURNED OUT TO BE A HYPOCRITE, I'D PLANNED TO SHOOT YOU.
...AFTER WHAT YOU SAID, I JUST COULDN'T FIND IT IN ME TO PULL THE TRIGGER.
COME ON NOW!
BUT...
ESPECIALLY AFTER YOU STOLE ONE OF MY LINES.

BUT FOR SOME REASON...
...I CAN'T SEEM TO SEE HIM AS A MONSTER.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "YOUR LINES"?
.....
I CAN NEVER FORGET...
...THAT HE'S STILL AN ASSASSIN ON THE INSIDE.
We're even!
I'm working for free, so you should too!
I can't get paid with out it!
Hey! Why're you ripping up my photo?!

GAME 3/OVER

Hello My name's Yuuki Shinko Nice to meet you Memori-chan
What if Yuuki were a girl?!
Are you scared of me Memori-chan?
You're so cute
Now show me just how strong you are
Heh heh heh.
He he
ha ha
ha ha ha!
Though bitter rivals, both are inextricably drawn to each other
Writer
How could I be drawn to that?!
Shes a freak!

gamexrush
GAME.4

A COMPANY THAT DISPATCHES BODYGUARDS TO PROTECT THE INNOCENTS OF SOCIETY.
OFF ICE
THIS IS THE FUJIEDA BODY-GUARD OFFICE.
AND I AM ONE OF THOSE BODY-GUARDS... THE BEST OF THEM. MEMORI FUJIEDA.
RIGHT NOW, I'M ABOUT TO FAINT FROM HUNGER.
PFFT, HOW CAN HE SAY WE STAND FOR JUSTICE WHEN HE CAN'T EVEN AFFORD TO FEED ME?!

Character Memo
Kenju Fujieda, age 29
DOB 8/15 (Leo)
Blood Type: Type B
Height: 186 cm

He's always fun to draw, because he's so easy to figure out. I wanted to have him show up more, but I never get to because of the infrequent chapter releases

THIS IS RIDICULOUS! MY STUPID BROTHER KEEPS BLOWING THE COMPANY'S MONEY AT THE TRACKS!
BUT, TO BE HONEST, THE PLACE IS BARELY HANGING BY A THREAD.
YOU'D PROBABLY THINK THAT BODYGUARDS BRING IN THE BIG MONEY, RIGHT?
HIMIKO-SAN! ♡
Food!
CAN I HAVE SOME, TOO?
MAYBE IT'S SOME DELICIOUS HOMEMADE DISH HIMIKO-SAN BROUGHT IN!
Eat as much as you'd like!
HERE I AM, WORKING MY BUTT OFF, WHILE THAT GOOD-FOR-NOTHING'S--
SOMETHING SMELLS GOOD IN THERE!
HMM?
HEY, MEMORI-CHAN. WELCOME BACK.

ピンポーン
GYAAAH! I'M GONNA BE KILLED BY A BODY-GUARD!
DON'T YOU "WELCOME BACK" ME, YOU DIRTY STALKER!
YUP. I'M FLAT BROKE, SO I HAVEN'T HAD A DECENT MEAL IN THREE DAYS.
THEN DIE!
I FOUND HIM COLLAPSED OUTSIDE OF THE OFFICE, SO I BROUGHT HIM IN.
COLLAPSED?
HIMIKO-SAN, DID HE HURT YOU?!
No, silly.
You're so funny Akemi-chan
GURRRGLE GRRRRUMBLE
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE THIS TIME? DID SOMEONE TELL YOU TO EAT MY FOOD AND LEAVE ME TO STARVE?!

HIMIKO-SAN, YOU KNOW BETTER THAN TO BRING STRANGERS INTO THE OFFICE!
BUT HE TOLD ME HE WAS A FRIEND OF YOURS!
SINCE WE HAVE WE BEEN FRIENDS?
C'MON, I DON'T HAVE MANY PLACES TO TURN TO AS IT IS.
Heh, heh, heh, heh
Spit it out!
YOU SHOULD BE CAREFUL TOO, KEN!
AAAH!
ER, NO. NOT ANY-MORE.
YOU WANNA KNOW THE REASON WHY? HUH?
PFFF
IN FACT, YES. YOU LOOK LIKE YOU'RE ABOUT READY TO KILL SOMEONE.
DO I LOOK UPSET TO YOU?
ME? UPSET?
Y-YOU UPSET ABOUT SOMETHING, BRO?

I-I MEANT, PLEASE, T-TELL ME.
Sniffle sniffle
DO YOU WANT TO DIE?!
WHAT?!
HOW DID YOU KNOW THAT?!
...FOR FREE!
I HEARD THAT YOU WENT BEHIND MY BACK AND PLAYED BODYGUARD FOR YOUR FRIEND...
MEMORIII... YOU DO KNOW OUR COMPANY'S IN THE RED AT THE MOMENT, RIGHT?
HE DIDN'T JUST COME HERE FOR THE FOOD...
ACTUALLY, YOUR FRIEND HERE TOLD HIM.
Long live me!
BECAUSE I'M GOD!
Friend
WHAT?!
THEN STOP SPENDING ALL OF OUR EXTRA CASH ON GAMBLING!
HE ALSO CAME TO OPEN HIS BIG, STUPID MOUTH!

BESIDES, WHY ARE YOU AGAINST US TAKING ON MORE PEOPLE?
IT'S NOT THAT. ...I'M AGAINST ...
THIS IS MY COMPANY! I CAN USE ITS MONEY AND STAFF AS I PLEASE!
THIS IS WHY YOU'RE SO DESPICABLE.
KNOCK KNOCK
EXCUSE ME, IS THIS THE FUJIEDA BODYGUARD OFFICE?
I'D LIKE TO HIRE A BODYGUARD, IF I MAY.
What a babe!
PLEASE, COME RIGHT IN! SIT DOWN!
WELL, AREN'T YOU ADOR-ABLE! ♡

I'M SAYAKO OUMI.
I HAVE A... SITUATION THAT REQUIRES THE ASSISTANCE OF A PERSONAL BODYGUARD.
YOU NEED A BODY-GUARD?
HOW OLD ARE YOU? AND WHY AREN'T YOUR PARENTS HERE WITH YOU?
I DON'T BELIEVE THAT MAKES A DIFFERENCE.
ACTUALLY, IT DOES. COME BACK HERE WITH YOUR PARENTS AND THEN WE'LL TALK.
Ken kun... be nice!
.....
I'M WILLING TO PAY 100,000 YEN ($1000) PER HOUR.
That's 240,000 for a full day's worth.
THIS IS MEMORI FUJIEDA, THE BILLBOARD BODYGUARD OF THE COMPANY. DO WITH HIM WHAT YOU LIKE.
KEN!
WAIT A SECOND! DON'T YOU FIND ANYTHING STRANGE ABOUT THIS LITTLE GIRL?
PSST PSST
YOU IDIOT! WHO CARES AS LONG AS SHE'S WILLING TO PAY?!
Just get the paperwork done
THIS IS IMMORAL!

HUH?
HMM...SO YOU'RE THE ONE?
IT'S NOT A MATTER OF STRENGTH! I'M ASKING IF THIS COMPANY SERIOUSLY ONLY DEPLOYS ONE SINGLE BODYGUARD!
Has gotten away with it thus far
Uh-huh
DON'T WORRY. THIS LITTLE GUY'S AS STRONG AS TEN MEN!
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT'S TRUE... BUT...
ARE YOU OFFERING ONLY ONE BODY-GUARD?
ER, IT'S YUUKI... SHIN.
FOR THE LAST TIME, WE'RE NOT BUDDIES!
HEY, WHAT'S THE NAME OF YOUR BUDDY?
WHATEVER, JUST TELL ME HIS NAME!

AND MEET ANOTHER OF OUR PROUD BODYGUARDS, YUUKI SHIH!
KEH, YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS--!
Hmph!
They're all so young
WHAT IN THE...?!
WELL?!
ISN'T THAT RIGHT?
It's the young ones that have stamina!

KEN, YOU MORON!
YOU HAVE NO IDEA THAT HE'S ACTUALLY AN... AN... ASSA~~!
GYAAAAH!
RIGHT ON!
WHY, YES SIR! THEY CALL ME THE PRINCE OF BODYGUARDS!
THEN HOW ABOUT THE BODYGUARD KING?
Heh heh heh
What does Prince of Bodyguards even mean anyway?
Who calls you that?
If anyone can stop Ken, it's her!
YEAH, HIMIKO-SAN'S RIGHT!
BUT KEN-KUN, YOU CAN'T DO THAT!
IN ANY CASE, I'LL BE YOUR LOYAL BODYGUARD, SO IF YOU COULD GIVE ME YOUR ADDRESS~~
I BETTER JUST GET OUT OF HERE WHILE I'M STILL AHEAD...
THAT'S MISSING THE POINT!
We can use both of them on the new one!
WE HAVEN'T EVEN MADE A PROMOTIONAL FLYER FOR YUUKI-KUN YET!
I'll protect you!

Memori and Yuuki

Memori and Yuuki aren't exactly on friendly terms and, because they're so different, it's quite difficult to draw them. Sometimes it really does make me want to stick to romance XD In creating **Game x Rush**, I had to rely a lot more on my editor than before. I also got a lot of help from my sister. She is able to view my work from the reader's prospective, so it's very helpful. I couldn't have created this series without her help! Thanks, sis! The plot is really dark so it's a lot of work to try to keep the series cheerful. I faced a lot of resistance when I decided to have an assassin in the story, but I'm doing my best to make Memori and Yuuki's story as good as possible!

NO!
HUH?
I WON'T FEEL SAFE WITH JUST ONE GUARD. I DEMAND TWO!
UH, WE DON'T HAVE ANY EXTRA ROOMS HERE--
OH, GREAT, SHE'S A RUNAWAY...
YOU DON'T EVEN HAVE A GUEST ROOM?! I'M APPALLED!
AND I'M NOT GOING HOME TONIGHT, EITHER. PREPARE ME A ROOM!
WHAT A BRATTY LITTLE--

I'M HAVING SOME TROUBLE WITH THE YAKUZA.
.....
CAN WE AT LEAST ASK WHY YOU NEED BODYGUARDS SO BADLY? WE CAN'T HELP YOU IF WE DON'T UNDERSTAND THE CIRCUMSTANCES...
LOOKS LIKE WE'LL HAVE TO ALLOW HER TO STAY IN THE OFFICE TONIGHT.
SHE HAS TO BE A RUNA-WAY.
SHE WON'T GIVE US HER ADDRESS OR PHONE NUMBER...
WOW...ONLY 13 AND IN TROUBLE WITH THE YAKUZA? TOUGH LIFE.
BUT...
RIGHT. HIMIKO-SAN'S ALREADY LOOKING INTO IT.
SHE ACTS LIKE SHE'S PRETTY RICH. ONCE WE FIND OUT WHO SHE IS, WE SHOULD GET HER BACK HOME, PRONTO.
Maybe
I THINK SHE'S LYING.

...LET'S NOT FORGET THERE'S SOMEONE ELSE HERE...
...WHO DOESN'T BELONG.
OUCH.
LOOK, I JUST DROPPED BY FOR A QUICK MEAL...
IT'S NOT MY FAULT I GOT CAUGHT UP IN THIS.
MAYBE NOT, BUT...

...YOU STILL MAKE ME SICK.
WHENEVER I SEE HIS LYING FACE...
YOU SURE KNOW HOW TO LAY IT ON A GUY, YOU KNOW?
...IT REMINDS ME OF THE FIRST TIME WE MET.
SO, I HEARD YOU'RE AGAINST ...
...HIRING MORE BODY-GUARDS.
WAS IT REALLY THAT TRAMATIZING FOR YOU?
WHA--?!
HEY! I'M STARVING!

WAIT A MINUTE! DOES THAT MEAN I HAVE TO SPEND THE NIGHT HERE WITH THESE TWO?!
I'm going out for an awesome meal!
THAT ROTTEN, GOOD-FOR-NOTHING~~!
So where's your chef?
Chef?
FINE, FINE. SO, WHERE'S KEN? HE IS THE ONE IN CHARGE AROUND HERE.
HE'S ALREADY LEFT.
ALL RIGHT, WE'LL JUST STOP BY THE CONVENIENCE STORE AND~~
This sucks
ARE YOU CRAZY? I CAN'T STAND BOXED LUNCHES!
You spoiled little
And Himiko sans working from home
PFFT, PIECE OF CAKE, YOU JERK-OFF.
ANO... CAN YOU COOK, CAN'T YOU, MEMORI-CHAN?
UH, I'M PRETTY SURE HIMIKO-SAN BUYS STUFF, SOMETIMES...
GOT ANY BASIC INGREDIENTS, MEMORI-CHAN?
HUH? ISN'T THIS HOW YOU MAKE MISO SOUP?
UH, WHY ARE YOU BOILING THE SEAWEED?

YOU'RE JUST LIKE AN OLD LADY, MEMORI-CHAN...
WHY ARE YOU MAKING MISO SOUP, ANYWAY?
All Japanese like miso soup!
Pick-pick up from Kari
BUT I'M SURE I'VE SEEN HIMIKO-SAN BOIL IT WHENEVER SHE MAKES THE STOCK...
Idiot!
YOU CAN'T EXTRACT ANY STOCK FROM THE SEAWEED BY BOILING IT!
SHE WAS PROBA-BLY USING KELP!
CARROTS HAVE SKIN?!
HOLD IT! YOU FORGOT TO SKIN THE CARROT!
Hmph
WELL, IT'S NOTHING FANCY, BUT...
FINE, THEN, SHOW ME WHAT YOU CAN DO!
HUH?
Ridiculous!
CAN'T YOU TWO COOK AT ALL?!
...HOW 'BOUT I SHOW YOU HOW A PRO MAKES CURRY RICE?

MY MOM ALWAYS COOKS FOR ME!
AND YOU?
IT'S JUST ME AND MY BROTHER, S-SO WE USUALLY HAVE T.V. DINNERS OR WE EAT OUT.
Er
HOW DO YOU GET BY AT HOME?!
Hmm...Sam cooks for us sometimes too
HIS...MOM?
I... I REALLY DON'T KNOW...
...ANYTHING ABOUT HIM.
YOU TWO ARE COMPLETELY USELESS.
COULD A GUY LIKE HIM REALLY HAVE A NORMAL FAMILY?
HE STILL GOES TO SCHOOL LIKE A NORMAL KID OUR AGE...
...SO WHY DID HE BECOME AN ASSASSIN?
THAT REMINDS ME, I'VE NEVER STOPPED TO THINK...
...ABOUT HIS FAMILY SITUATION.

I AM TRULY SORRY, MY MOST WONDERFUL CLIENT!
I JUST GOTTA MAKE IT THROUGH TONIGHT!
NO MATTER.
I'LL HAVE TO COOK SOMETHING MYSELF! JUST SIT BACK AND WATCH!
YOU CAN COOK, SAYAKO-CHAN?
Cool!
WHY WOULD A SPOILED GIRL LIKE YOU HAVE TO LEARN HOUSEWORK?
DROP THE "CHAN," THANK YOU!
AND I'M OFFENDED BY THAT COMMENT.
I COULD DO THE SLICING FOR YOU, IF YOU'D--
PLEASE, I CAN HANDLE THIS MYSELF!
Y-YES MA'M...
UH-OH, THAT LOOKS A LITTLE DANGEROUS...
W-WHAT ARE YOU GAWKING AT?! WAIT OVER THERE!
ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT!
SHEESH, SHE'S THE ONE THAT TOLD US TO WATCH.

BUT NOW...
AND HERE I THOUGHT SHE WAS ONLY A SPOILED, SELFISH LITTLE BRAT!
HEH, SHE MAY BE A LITTLE SPOILED, BUT SHE'S STILL PRETTY CUTE
I LIKE THAT KINDA GIRL!

WHADDA YOU WANT?
!
I CAN'T BELIEVE..
...I HAD TO SUPPRESS THE URGE TO ASK...
..."WHAT SORT OF ASSASSIN ARE YOU? WHAT SORT OF PERSON ARE YOU?"
OR MAYBE...
OR SHOULD I SAY... PLANNING?
I JUST CAN'T FIGURE OUT WHAT YOU'RE THINKING...
ALL DONE! NOW EAT UP!

PLEASE HELP ME!
HE'S BEEN GIVING ME COME-NITHER LOOKS ALL NIGHT!
HUH?!
Hmm really?
.....
UM, IF I MAY...
THERE'S PLENTY, IF ANYBODY WANTS SECONDS!
WELL, I SUPPOSE THERE'RE ALL KINDS OF PEOPLE IN THE WORLD.
NOOOO... I DON'T WANT TO...!
KNOCK IT OFF! I DON'T SWING THAT WAY!
Just go along with it
SUSPICIOUS THAT HE'D DENY IT.
INDEED.
GIVE IT A REST!!
JERKS.
OH!

HMMM?
MEMORI-CHAN, AREN'T YOU FORGETTING SOMETHING?
More, please!
AH!
OOO!
MMM!
NO, MORON! I MEAN THANKING HER FOR THE CURRY!
Huh?
OH!
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
YUUKI'S GOOD AT PICKING UP ON THE SMALL STUFF.
You're cute when you're shy Sayaka-chan
"BON APPETITE."
OH, RIGHT.

I DECIDED TO BLAME THE WONDERFUL CURRY FOR WHY I HAD SO MUCH FUN THAT NIGHT AT DINNER.

I'm going to brush my teeth.
...QUIT STARING AT ME, FOR ONCE?
LISTEN, WOULD YOU...
LET ME WARM IT UP FOR YOU.
THEN I'LL SHOW YOU TO THE YUUKI BED.
Lay your body here
UHHHH... YOU KNOW, I THINK I WILL TAKE THE SOFA.
I'M NOT STARING, YOU FREAK.
THEN GET THE HELL OUT OF HERE.
SORRY, BUT I'M A BODYGUARD, TOO, NOW. WE'RE IN THIS TOGETHER.
IT'S MAKING ME UNCOMFORTABLE.

OH MY GOOD-NESS!
THIS IS DREAD-FUL!
I'D NEVER HAVE GUESSED ...
..SHE WAS SUCH A NAUGHTY GIRL AFTER ALL!

GOT SOME BUSINESS HERE...
...OLD MAN?
ERK!

MOVE, AND I SLIT YOUR THROAT.
--THAT!
DON'T WAVE A KNIFE AROUND LIKE--
EEK!
YUUKI!

I feel sorry for the dude
OH, MAN, YOUR RIGHT JAB IS THE WORST.
H-HE'LL BE FINE!
THEY'RE NOT NEARLY STRONG ENOUGH TO BE YAKUZA.
HUH? WHO'RE THESE THUGS?
Hmph.
WELL, THEY'RE IDIOTS TO BREAK INTO THE OFFICE.
SAYAKO OUMI-SAN?
DO YOU HAVE ANY...
... IDEAS?

H-HOW DID YOU KNOW IT WAS ME?
YOU UNLOCKED THE FRONT DOOR WHEN YOU WENT TO "BRUSH YOUR TEETH."
YOU'VE GOT A GOOD EYE. YOU KNEW THE DOOR WAS AT A BLIND SPOT IF YOU STOOD HERE.
IT'S PART OF THE BUSINESS, KEEPING THE OFFICE'S OCCUPANTS HIDDEN FROM THE ENTRANCE.
And you're usually the slow one
Shut up!
VERY GOOD. I WOULDN'T EXPECT ANY LESS FROM THE BEST BODYGUARD IN THE FUJIEDA OFFICE.
HOWEVER ...
WHAT SORT OF PATHETIC SHOW WAS THAT?! YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE THE MUSCLE!
I'M SLASHING YOUR SALARIES!
NO! PLEASE, ANYTHING BUT THAT, MADAM PRESIDENT!
PRESIDENT?!
FORGIVE ME FOR NOT BRINGING IT UP EARLIER...
I AM SAYAKO OUMI, PRESIDENT OF THE OUMI BODYGUARD DISPATCHING COMPANY, G-ING.

ANOTHER BODYGUARD COMPANY?!
MY COMPANY IS SEEKING EMPLOYEES OF THE HIGHEST CALIBER...
WON'T YOU BOTH COME WORK FOR ME?
GAME 4 OVER

game x rush™
GAME 5

WHAAAT?!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, YUUKI'S BEEN KIDNAPPED?!
THE FUJIEDA BODY-GUARD OFFICE.
IT ALL STARTED WHEN A YOUNG GIRL BY THE NAME OF SAYAKO OUMI CAME TO OFFER US A JOB.
ARE YOU REALLY A COMPANY PRESIDENT?
WHAT?! B-BUT HE WORKS FOR US!
YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS.
Can you?
WELL, IT'S MORE LIKE HE TOOK HER UP ON HER OFFER AND WENT WITH HER... NOT KIDNAPPED.

Character Memo
Koutari Himiko, age 28
DOB: 10/8 (Libra)
Blood Type: Type O
Height: 169 cm

She's another character I don't get to draw much, unfortunately. But she was always an oasis for my mind ♥ Sort of like the gentle older sister. She's a mature woman who always thinks through things calmly and evenly

YOU'RE SHOCKED BECAUSE I'M STILL JUST A KID, HM?
WELL, MY FATHER'S OFFICIALLY HANDED OVER OWNERSHIP OF G-ING TO ME.
G-ING IS A BRAND NEW BODYGUARD DISPATCHING COMPANY CREATED BY OUMI CORP.
OBVIOUSLY, WE'RE LOOKING TO FILL POSITIONS.
SO WHY COME HERE?
"OUMI," HUH? AS IN THE MASSIVE OUMI CORPORATION?
THAT MEANS... YOUR FATHER IS THE HEAD OF THAT CORPORATION. THIS IS INSANE.
ASTUTE OBSERVATION.
I NEEDED TO SEE FOR MYSELF IF THE RUMORS WERE TRUE...
THAT'S WHY I CAME AS A CLIENT.
A royal pain in the...
MEMORI FUJIEDA, YOU ARE QUITE WELL-KNOWN IN THE WORLD OF BODYGUARDS.
THE MOST YOUTHFUL, HANDSOME AND SKILLED BODYGUARD OF JAPAN. IN FACT
I try

...I NOW BELIEVE IT WOULD BE MOST AMUSING TO HAVE YOU WORK FOR ME.
BUT EVEN MORE SO...
YOU'RE STRONGER THAN I ANTICIPATED, I'LL GIVE YOU THAT.
SO, YOU'RE SAYING WE PASSED?
JOINING AS A TRAINEE AND PART-TIMER WOULD HELP YOUR RESUME, AND I COULD ALWAYS INCLUDE A SPECIAL BONUS.
I'M NOT ASKING YOU TO JOIN US AS A FULL-TIME EMPLOYEE.
Really?
THEN WHAT ABOUT YOU?
I-I'M STILL ONLY IN HIGH SCHOOL.
Uh...
LOOK, I APPRECIATE THE OFFER, BUT I'M ALREADY THE BILLBOARD --
Erk!
THERE'S NO WAY HE CAN BECOME A BODYGUARD!
W-WAIT A MINUTE!
THIS SOUNDS TOO GOOD TO TURN DOWN! ♡
AND THAT'S NOT ALL! YOU'D GET TO ATTEND WEEKLY JUDO AND KARATE LESSONS, AND RECEIVE REWARD MONEY FOR GOOD GRADES!

ACK!
OOH, IT JUST SOUNDS SO WONDER-FUL...
WELL, MEMORI-KUN, FEEL FREE TO STOP BY WHENEVER YOU CHANGE YOUR MIND.
Ha ha ha!
Hup Hup!
HOWEVER, HEARING IT 100 TIMES ISN'T WORTH AS MUCH AS SEEING IT ONCE IN PERSON, AM I RIGHT? HUH, HUH?
...YOU JUST SAT BACK AND WATCHED AS YUUKI WAS DRAGGED AWAY BY THAT GIRL?
SO, YOU'RE TELLING ME...
THIS IS WHY I HATE MY BROTHER!!
WHY DIDN'T YOU GO TO CHECK IT OUT, TOO?!
So get that reward money! For the good of the company!
YES, THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT YOU DID!
WELL...

WHY AM I STANDING HERE, ANYWAY?
WOW ...THIS PLACE IS HUGE.
PERSONALLY, I'D BE BETTER OFF NOT INVOLVING MYSELF WITH YUUKI OR OUMI EVER AGAIN.
ドーン。
ESPECIALLY YUUKI. HE'S JUST TOO HARD TO FIGURE OUT.
OH, WELL...

HERE IT GOES.
EXCUSE ME?
MY NAME IS FUJIEDA, AND WAS INVITED HERE FOR A VISIT.
MIGHT I REQUEST THE AUDIENCE OF YOUR COMPANY'S PRESIDENT?
UH...
O-OF COURSE!
I'M RIGHT HERE.
W-WHAT ARE YOU DOING THERE?!
HEH HEH. I KNEW YOU'D COME.
IN ANY CASE ...

...I CAN SEE RIGHT THROUGH YOUR FAKE SMILE.
It may have fooled the receptionist but not me.
SO, HAVE YOU DECIDED TO JOIN MY COMPANY, AS WELL?
I'M JUST HERE...TO OBSERVE.
Th-that was a harsh blow
You okay?
It's good to have you here.
HMPH, VERY WELL THEN.

THIS BUILDING WAS JUST RECENTLY BUILT... ISN'T IT IMPRESSIVE?
YOUR OFFICE COULD NEVER HOLD A CANDLE TO IT.
She ain't kidding
*
MY ONE AND ONLY JOB IS TO KEEP THIS COMPANY GOING STRONG.
THAT'S WHY I ONLY KEEP THE MOST TALENTED PEOPLE ON MY PAYROLL.
YOUR BUSINESS PLAN SEEMS QUITE SOUND.
NONE TAKEN.
NO OFFENSE MEANT, OF COURSE ...
WHY, I WOULDN'T BE SURPRISED IF YOUR COMPANY WENT UNDER.

HE'S A BIT BUSY AT THE MOMENT.
Whoa! Come on!
OH, NIM?
.....
ANYWAY, WHERE'S THAT GOOFBALL YOU TOOK FROM OUR OFFICE?
HE'S THE GUY THE PRESIDENT BROUGHT IN, RIGHT? WHAT AN ANIMAL!
AI-AI!
Wow!
THAT'S THE FIFTH OPPONENT IN A ROW!
HE ASKED TO PARTICIPATE IN A JUDO TOURNAMENT.
WHAT THE HECK'S HE DOING?!

You can try your hand at karate or even Chinese martial arts
NO, I'M NOT REALLY INTERESTED ~~
I ALWAYS MAKE SURE MY EMPLOYEES ARE SKILLED IN ALL THE MARTIAL ARTS.
CARE TO JOIN IN?
Come and get some
ひっ
ON SECOND THOUGHT, LEND ME A UNIFORM.
DOESN'T TAKE MUCH TO CHANGE YOUR MIND, HMM?

WHAAAT?!
THIS YOUNG MAN WILL BE JOINING YOUR TEAM.
YOUR ATTENTION, EVERYONE!
I DUNNO, MAOAM PRESIDENT. JUST WHO IS HE?
SHE'S CERTAINLY ONE DOMINEER-ING GAL.
DOESN'T ANYONE HERE HAVE A PROBLEM WITH HAVING A 13-YEAR-OLD BOSS?!
THAT IS IRRELEVANT TO THE CURRENT SITUATION! AND NO TALKING BACK!
Hmph!
DON'T WE EVEN GET A DECENT HELLO?
Oops!
NICE TO MEET YOU. I'M MEMORI--

CAREFUL NOW, WOULON'T WANNA BREAK THE PREZ'S PORCELAIN DOLL!
Wa-ha-ha-ha!
HOW WE GONNA HAVE ANY FUN WITH A WEAKLING LIKE HIM ON OUR TEAM?
BUT...
I GUESS I CAN UNDERSTAND WHY THEY'D BE UPSET.
WHAT'S WITH THESE JERKS?! IF THEY'RE LOOKING FOR A FIGHT, THEY'VE SURE COME TO THE RIGHT PLACE. THEY'RE PROBABLY PISSED BECAUSE MY COMING IN MEANS THEY'RE GOING TO HAVE TO LOSE ANOTHER TEAMMATE.
WHADDA YA SAY, LITTLE GUY? SHALL I PROTECT YOU?!
Ah-ha-ha-ha!
MAYBE THE PREZ GOT MIXED UP AND BROUGHT IN A CLIENT INSTEAD!
BUNCH OF APES!
DOES HE REALLY EXPECT TO BECOME A BODY-GUARD?
...I WON'T SIT BACK AND BE MOCKED!
I ALREADY AM ONE, YOU TWIT.

My Beloved Cat ♥

I have a cat ♥ She's already seven months old, but she's just as soft and fluffy as when she was a kitten! In my last personal column, I said that I could never own a cat, but I just can't help but pet it and pet it until she's had enough of it! She runs away at the sight of me, but that just makes me want to chase her down, pick her up, and pet her all over again. I don't care if she tries batting at me with her paws, because her little wagging tail makes me want to tickle her belly and back! As you can see, it can be pretty distracting. But there's a good side to it--whenever I'm feeling down, her being there helps stop the tears. That's really one of the greatest joys. ♥ Even though she still runs away from me. What a spoilsport -_- Heh heh!

I can't wait!
I HEARD YOU'RE FIGHTING IN THE NEXT MATCH! THAT'S WITH ME!
DOO-FUS!
DON'T TELL ME YOU CAME TO TAKE ME BACK!
I've got my eye on that prize money
NOT ON YOUR LIFE.
ANYWAY, ARE YOU REALLY PLANNING ON JOINING G-ING?

HE SAID SOME STRANGE THINGS TO ME, MEMORI-CHAN...
HE TOLD ME THAT YOU TRIED TO INTRODUCE A NEW EMPLOYEE TO HIM.
BUT KEN THOUGHT I'D BE A GOOD MEMBER OF THE TEAM...
THE COMPANY'S DOING FINE WITH JUST ME.
And don't just call him "Ken"--he's your brother
IT WAS RIGHT AROUND THE TIME YOU FIRST MET ME...
...YOU'D APPARENTLY SAID YOU'D FOUND SOMEONE WORTHWHILE.
I'D LOVE TO MEET HIM.

SO, HERE'S TO OUR FIRST MATCH!
OW...
DAMN PUNK!
YOU KNOW HIM?
I DON'T LIKE FRESHMEN GETTING SO COCKY... IT DRIVES ME CRAZY.
I'LL KILL HIM.
THE NEXT MATCH WILL NOW BEGIN! ALL OPPONENTS PLEASE GATHER ON THE MAT.
NUH?

WHAT'S HE MEAN HE'D "LOVE TO MEET HIM"? DIRTY BA*STARD! HE'S GOIN' DOWN FOR SURE! AND I SHOULD KICK MYSELF FOR SAYING HE WAS WORTHWHILE BACK IN CHAPTER ONE TO BEGIN WITH!
THAT LITTLE PUNK!
...AND I WOULDN'T BE IN THIS MESS IN THE FIRST PLACE!
IF I HADN'T RUN INTO HIM, I COULD'VE FOUND A REAL EMPLOYEE...
...STILL JUST MESSING WITH ME!
NO...
...QUESTION!
HE'S DEFI-NITELY...
VICTORY GOES TO YUUKI!
ROUND ONE!
HE SAID HE WANTED TO BE A BODY-GUARD.
Wow first match over in less than a minute!
BUT...
HOW COULD YOU LOSE IN THESE SECONDS?!
...WHEN HE JUST WANTED TO MESS WITH ME...

スダーン
スダーン
THE WHOLE LOT OF YOU! PATHETIC!
...AM I LETTING IT GET TO ME?
Rawr!
THEN, PERHAPS, YOU CAN FIX YOUR PATHETIC EXCUSE FOR A LIFE!
FACE ME, AND FACE YOUR DEATH!
YOU CALL YOURSELVES BODYGUARDS?! YOU COULD NEVER HANDLE THE REAL THING!
YOU SLACKERS!
W who, me?
YOU'RE A JOKE, LOSING TO HIM SO EASILY!
SO WHY...
Gasp!
I'LL TEACH YOU WHAT IT MEANS TO HAVE REAL GUTS!
I WANNA SEE ALL YOU DIMWITS LINE UP!
IT DOESN'T MAKE ANY SENSE!

OOPS.
LIH-OH NOW I'VE DONE IT...
I WAS SUPPOSED TO HANDLE THIS MATURELY...
...BUT SEEING THAT SMARTASS YUUKI AND THESE MORONS...
...GOT ME SO RILED UP!
THIS COULD BE BAD...
AFTER WHAT I'VE DONE...
...I BET THEY'LL...
...KICK ME OUT
YOU...
YOU ARE THE COOLEST GUY EVER!! ♡♡

I THINK I SEE WHY THEY LISTEN TO YOU SO WELL, SAYA-CHAN.
MY EMPLOYEES LOVE A GOOD SCOLDING. THE MORE HUMILIATING, THE BETTER.
Gyaaaah! Stay away! You're sweaty!
EEEEEK!
What's with these guys?!
PLEASE TOSS ME OVER YOUR SHOULDER AGAIN!
YOUR SPEECH GAVE ME THE SHIVERS, FUJIEDA-SAN!
CAN I CALL YOU "BIG BROTHER"?
TELL KEN YOU'LL BUY MEMORI-CHAN FOR ONE HUNDRED MILLION YEN.
STOP IT!!
He really will sell me!
HMM, YOU'RE RIGHT.
BWOOP!
FUJIEDA BODY-GUARD WILL BE IN TROUBLE IF I LEAVE.
YOU SEEM PRETTY POPULAR AROUND HERE. WHY NOT JOIN G-ING FOR REAL?
Huff
Huff
Got away
NOW, LOOK HERE...
.....
WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL? YOU'LL GET MORE WORK THIS WAY.
OH, COME ON!
THEN JUST BUY OUT THE COMPANY.
BWEEP!

...AND I KNOW YOU HAVE PRIDE IN YOUR WORK.
YOU SAID THAT YOU THOUGHT MY BUSINESS PRACTICE WAS SOUND...
BESIDES, IT'D MAKE THINGS EASIER ON KEN IF YOU MADE A GOOD LIVING HERE.
BACK AT FUJIEDA, YOU NEVER KNOW WHEN YOU'LL GET YOUR NEXT CASE.
WITHOUT SOMETHING TO PROTECT, EVEN THE MOST TALENTED MAN WILL FAIL IN THIS LINE OF WORK.
I CAN'T WORK HERE...
BECAUSE...
WITH-OUT...
HMM?
.....
PLUS, I'D APPRECIATE YOU WHIPPING MY BOYS INTO SHAPE.

BECAUSE ...
...I WANT NOTHING MORE THAN TO PROTECT MY FAMILY AND THAT BUSINESS.
Knee-deep in negotiations
Oh, Kan.
YOUR BROTHER SAYS HE'LL SELL YOU FOR A COOL BILLION.
I FEEL SORRY FOR YOU.
SH-SHUT UP! I STILL WON'T--!
WHO'S HE KIDDING ...
...WITH THIS "FAMILY" THING?

WE ALL KNOW, MEMORI-CHAN...
...THAT YOU DON'T TRULY HAVE A FAMILY.
EVEN YOUR BROTHER KEN ISN'T A TRUE BLOOD RELATIVE.
HECK, HE'S BASICALLY A COMPLETE STRANGER.
EVEN FUJIEDA, WHO RAISED YOU...

...ONLY DID SO BECAUSE HE FELT SORRY FOR THE PATHETIC LITTLE ORPHAN ON HIS DOORSTEP.
WELL, IT SEEMS YOU KNOW QUITE A BIT, YUUKI...
BUT...

...WHAT THE HELL DOES THAT MATTER?!
I DON'T NEED YOU TELLING ME...
...WHO MY FAMILY IS!
EVEN IF THEY'RE NOT TIED BY BLOOD...
...THIS JOB IS THE ONE PLACE I'VE ALWAYS BELONGED!
STRANGER OR NOT...

IF IT MEANT BEING WITH KEN AND MY ADOPTIVE FAMILY...
...THEN I...
IF TAKING THIS JOB MEANT BECOMING A "FUJIEDA"...
I'D DO WHATEVER IT TOOK TO STAY!
WHY DO YOU...?
WHY...?
ALL THESE HORRIBLE MEMORIES I'VE LEFT BEHIND... THEY'VE COME TO THE SURFACE!
STOP IT.
Huff
.....

HUH...?

OKAY THEN.
THAT'S ENOUGH OF THAT.
ERK!
HUH?
ALL RIGHT, EVERYONE! BACK TO YOUR TRAINING!
Yes, ma'am!
Fujieda-san sure is cool.
パン パン
SHEESH, I DIDN'T EVEN HAVE TIME TO COVER MY EARS....
.....
ADMITTEDLY I WAS MEDDLING A BIT MORE THAN I SHOULD'VE, BUT...
...I'D APPRECIATE YOU DUMPING THE DRAMATICS.

YOU CAN CALL ME BY MY FIRST NAME.
OKAY.
..YET STILL SO DELICATE.
YOU'RE PRETTY TOUGH...
I'D LIKE IT IF YOU WOULD.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT CAME OVER ME.
S-SORRY, OUMI-SAN.
IT'S "SAYAKO."
HUH?
I
BUT I'LL BACK OFF, FOR NOW.
HEH, NOW I WANT YOU MORE THAN EVER.
ARE YOU OKAY?
I'M NOT CRYING!
NEED A TISSUE?
THERE'S NO WAY I'M PAYING A BILLION.
HE'S SO STUBBORN.
YOUR BOSS DEMANDED A BILLION YEN BECAUSE HE KNEW HE COULDN'T STAND LOSING YOU.

...HUH?
...THAT SAD EXPRESSION FOR AN INSTANT.
I ONLY SAW...
Really, I don't get it!
AND YOUR MASK COMES ON AGAIN! SHEESH.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

I JUST HOPE.....
...HE DOESN'T MAKE ANY MORE TROUBLE FOR ME.
...IT WOULDN'T BE MUCH LONGER...
...BEFORE I SAW ANOTHER ONE OF HIS FACES...
...THAT WOULD SET THE GAME OFF ONCE AGAIN.
BUT...

GAME 5/OVER

game X rush™
GAME. 6

UM, WOULD YOU MIND LETTING GO?
FUJIEDA-KUN IS NOT AN EMPLOYEE AT OUR COMPANY, SO PLEASE DON'T HARASS NIM. AND YOU'RE ON THE CLOCK! BACK TO WORK!
Tight hold!

† Second day spent avoiding the inevitable thumbnail deadline

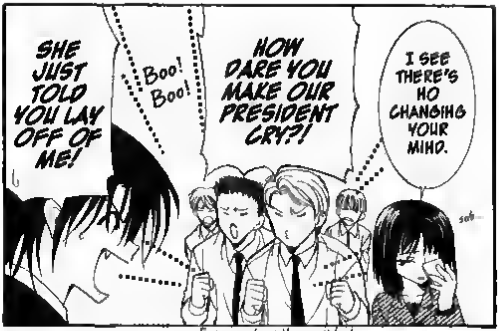
To Conclude

This chapter was really difficult for me. Though it seems to always be the case, even when I know what I want to do, I can never get it just right. I guess I'm in a slump. My friends and family are able to cheer me up and keep me strong, though. And the readers too! Even though I love my job, I need to work hard so I can create a manga that I can be proud of.

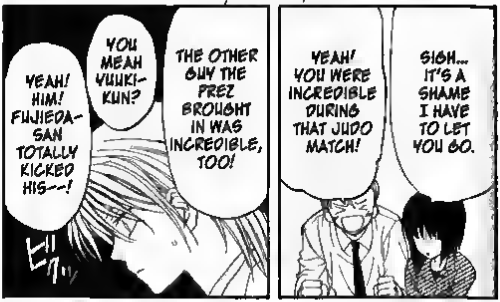
Thanks to my editor who helps me come up with ideas! I hope you all enjoy Volume 2 as much as you enjoyed Volume 1. I always enjoy receiving your fanmail!

Special thanks to:
Mikorin
Ryo Sakura
Touru
Rurunga

And my mom and sister!



Everyone loves the president

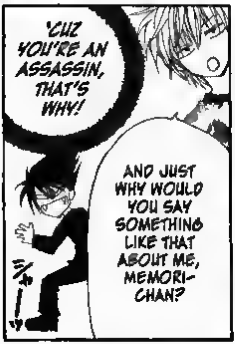

SIGH... IT'S A SHAME I HAVE TO LET YOU GO.
YEAH! YOU WERE INCREDIBLE DURING THAT JUDO MATCH!
THE OTHER GUY THE PREZ BROUGHT IN WAS INCREDIBLE, TOO!
YOU MEAN YUUKI-KUN?
YEAH! HIM! FUJIEDA-SAN TOTALLY KICKED HIS--!

DON'T FORGET YOU GOT HAMMERED THE FIRST TIME! IT WAS A PLEASURE TAKING YOU DOWN SO EASILY!
I-I HAD SOME BACK PAIN, SO...
ヨボヨボ
Liar! You were just fine!
WHAT DO YOU WANT?!
しゃりーん
A JUDO REMATCH!
DO IT BY YOURSELF.
What are you...a kindergartener?!
Woo hoo!
I DON'T CARE! I WANT TO DO JUDO, SO THAT'S WHAT WE'RE DOING!
TO WHAT?
BY THE WAY, I STILL HAVEN'T HEARD YOUR ANSWER, YUUKI-KUN.
FIRST THERE'S THAT! LOOK, HE GAVE ME BEFORE THE MATCH! AND THEN...
HE DRIVES ME UP THE WALL!
Um...no duh Mamori-chan! I'd look like an idiot if I did it alone!

WHAAAAT?!
Yeah, totally
SURE, WHATEVER.

WHETHER OR NOT YOU'RE READY TO JOIN MY TEAM.
ON, THAT.

GAAAAH...!
I KNOW IT'S ALL A BIT SUDDEN, BUT I'D LIKE TO WATCH YOU COMPLETE SOME SIMPLE TASKS.
Starting tomorrow
As long as it involves a fat pay check!
Consider it a part time job


'CUZ YOU'RE AN ASSASSIN, THAT'S WHY!
AND JUST WHY WOULD YOU SAY SOMETHING LIKE THAT ABOUT ME, MEMORI-CHAN?

I-IT'S JUST THAT I DON'T THINK YOU SHOULD ASSOCIATE YOURSELF WITH--
IS THERE A PROB-LEM?

I WAS HOPING...I COULD TAG ALONG, TOO?

EXCUSE ME?
SHOULDN'T YOU BE GETTING HOME NOW?
OH, UH...

THE FOLLOWING DAY..
WH-WHAT ARE YOU GIVING ME THOSE LOOKS FOR?
PSST
PSST
LIKE I SAID, IF YOU WANT TO GET A RISE OUT OF MEMORI-CHAN, JUST USE ME AS BAIT!
HE REALLY CAME!
I heard that!
HELP ME REEL NIM IN, AND THERE'S A BONUS IN IT FOR YOU!
BEFORE YOU KNOW IT, NE MAY ACTUALLY JOIN G-ING!
DAMMIT, WHAT COULD HE BE PLOTTING THIS TIME?!
Plotting→
THIS IS WHERE YOU'LL BE WORKING TODAY.
You told us to dress casual but
SO WHY'D YOU TAKE US TO A PRE-SCHOOL?

TRUST ME, MOST OF MY INCOMPETENT EMPLOYEES WOULD SCARE THE LIVING DAYLIGHTS OUT OF THESE CHILDREN.
BUT WHY IS THIS OUR JOB?
WHAT EXACTLY ARE WE SUPPOSED TO DO HERE?
Play games?
YOUR LAST MISSION WAS RATHER ROUGH, SO, THIS TIME, YOU ARE MERELY EXPECTED TO ACT AS SURVEILLANCE AND ENSURE THE SAFETY OF THIS SCHOOL'S STUDENTS.
Treat your kids here.
AW, MAN! COULDN'T YOU AT LEAST HAVE GOTTEN US A BIG PLAYING BODYGUARD TO SOME HOT ACTRESS OR SOMETHING?
I want one of those!
Don't let us in.
MISTER! HEY, MISTER!
.....
WANNA PLAY?
HEY! AREN'T YOU SUPPOSED TO BE AN ASSASSIN?!
Heh heh
BUT OF COURSE, MY SWEET PRINCESS. WHAT GAME WOULD YOU LIKE TO PLAY? ♡♡

YUP, THAT'S WHAT SHE SAID.
TEACHER TOLD US THERE'D BE BODY-GUARDS COMING TODAY.
HEY, MISTER! ARE YOU A BODY-GUARD?
DON'T FORGET YOU'RE ALSO A CHILD.
HE JUST CAN'T SAY NO TO A CHILD.
Show us your gun!
AND BECOME A TARGET FOR SOME ROCK THROW-ING!
MORE CHEEKY BRATS!
WE WANNA SEE YOU JUMP OFF A HIGH CLIFF!
AREN'T BODYGUARDS SUPPOSED TO BE IMMORTAL?
HMMM, YOU WERE DEFINITELY RAISED BY YOUR BIG BROTHER...
The big brother
But I'm sure you'll be fine.
Eeeek!
Hisss
ALL RIGHT, KIDDIES, LET'S ALL GO CLIFF-DIVING TOGETHER!

CARRY ON. I'LL BE LEAVING YOU FOR AWHILE TO SAY HELLO TO THE SCHOOL'S PRINCIPAL.
WAIT, I COULD--!
Gyaa! Let us go!
BUT YOU'RE A KID.
And I haven't time! G'bye, yer.
STOP TREATING ME LIKE A CHILD.
DON'T FORGET, I'M YOUR FUTURE EMP- LOVER!
WHO COULD THAT BE...?
WELL, WELL, MEMORI-CHAN!

Remember what happened with the judo team yesterday, heh heh?
YOU SURE KNOW HOW TO ATTRACT GUYS. MAYBE YOU'RE LETTING OFF SOME SERIOUS PHEROMONES OR SOMETHING.
SHUT UP!
SHUT UP! I HATE YOUR GUTS!
I SEE YOU'RE THE POPULAR ONE. LUCKY DOG.
Famous for jumping off the jungle gym with kids on his back
Enthralled!
Dazzled!
Only boys
Only girls
HE LOOKS SO GENTLE...
YOU SURE ARE GOOD WITH CHILDREN.
...IT'S ALMOST HARD TO BELIEVE HE'S ACTUALLY A KILLER

...BUT I'VE ALWAYS LOVED THEM.
I'VE ACTUALLY NEVER PLAYED WITH CHILDREN BEFORE...
"MY..."
AND Y'KNOW...
I GUESS IT'S BECAUSE THEY'RE CUTE, LIKE TINY ANIMALS.
...THEY'RE ALMOST LIKE PETS...
"MY SWEET CHILD..."
"I COULD NEVER LIVE WITHOUT YOU..."

YUUKI!
Gasp!
THAT WAS A CLOSE ONE.
THE HELL'S WRONG WITH YOU?!
YOU DROPPED HER!
HUH?
B-BUT I WAS JUST HOLDING HER.
YOUR HANDS ARE SHAKING.
ARE YOU SURE YOU'RE ALL RIGHT?
LOOK ...
THEY'RE NOT SHAK-ING!
THEY WERE A SECOND AGO.

WELL FOR ONE, YOU'VE GOT THE FACE OF A DOG.
RUFF?
WOW!
BOW!
LISTEN...
I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND, BUT...
...I GET THE FEELING I UNDERSTAND YOU A LITTLE BETTER.
OH, YEAH? LIKE HOW?
SAY WHAT?!
Where'd that come from?
SOMETIMES, YOU LOOK LIKE A PUPPY THAT'S BEEN ABANDONED BY ITS MOMMA...
BUT SEEING YOU LIKE THAT...
...MAKES ME FEEL BETTER.
EVEN A FACE LACED WITH A TINY BIT OF PAIN...
ABAN-DONED?
IT'S LIKE...YOUR EYES GIVE YOU AWAY.
Take me home!
...IS A THOUSAND TIMES BETTER THAN SEEING THAT MASK.
WHAT DO YOU UNDERSTAND ABOUT ME?
YOU'RE RIGHT.

...BUT NOW--

I USED TO PRETEND I HAD NO INTEREST IN GETTING TO KNOW YOU...

GOOD WORK, YOU TWO.
BUT I GUESS EVEN KIDS CAN GET THE BEST OF YOU SOMETIMES.

LOOKS LIKE I GOTTA DO IT.
Here we go! ♪
WHEE!

C'MON, I WANNA PLAY AIR-PLANE!
OH, OKAY.

EXCUSE ME, ARE YOU HERE TO PICK UP YOUR CHILD?
.....
HUH, COULD THAT BE ONE OF THE KID'S PARENTS?
IN ANY CASE, THIS CONCLUDES TODAY'S MISSION.
THEY MADE ME PLAY AIRPLANE ALL DAY!
HUH?
BY THE WAY, WHERE'S SAYA-CHAN?
HE KEPT WATCHING, BUT I GUESS HE WENT HOME.
THERE WAS SOME GUY STANDING BY THE FENCE ALL DAY.
WHO IS?
HE'S GONE.

!!
FUUUUU?
MEMORI-CHAN?!
I HEARD A VOICE!
BUT FROM WHERE?!
THERE!
WHAT THE HELL DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?!

THIS HAPPENS ALL THE TIME. I LET MY GUARD DOWN THIS TIME, THOUGH...
SO IT WAS THE OUMI HEIRESS YOU WERE AFTER, NOT THE KIDS!
Was this an attempted kid napping?
CALL ME "SAYAKO."
FUJIEDA-KUN!
YOU OKAY?!
YES...
YOU IDIOT!
I-I-I-

"MY SWEET CHILD."
"...WITHOUT YOU."
"I COULD NEVER LIVE..."

YUUKI!
"SWEET CHILD...
Shit!
MOVE IT!
YUUKI-KUN!
YUUKI!

"KILL."

HEY!
GYAAH!
STOP IT!!

STOP THIS.
ARE YOU TRYING TO KILL HIM?

HE TERRIFIES ME.
BUT IF YOU KEEP--
HE'S NOT GOING ANYWHERE ANY TIME SOON!
I SAID, MOVE!!
JUST WHO...
...IS HE?
MOVE.
NOW.
BEFORE HE GETS AW--
GET OUT OF MY WAY, MEMORI.
FUJIOKA-SAN!
SO MUCH... HE TERRIFIES ME.

...IS HE SHAKING FROM THE PAIN?
OR IS IT...
HE'S TERRIFYING, BUT...
IS IT BECAUSE...
D-AMMIT...
GET OUT OF THE WAY.
I DON'T...
THERE'S SOMETHING THAT YOU FEAR, TOO?

I DON'T WANT TO HAVE TO KILL YOU!
PLEASE...
YUUKI-KUN?!
HA HA...

ARE YOU OKAY?
I'M FINE.
Just a shallow wound
THE POLICE ARE GOING TO WANT A REPORT ONCE THEY BOTH COME TO
THE POLICE?
THEY'RE SOUND ASLEEP IN THEIR RESPECTIVE HOSPITAL ROOMS RIGHT NOW.
YUUKI-KUN AND OUR MYSTERY MAN...
THE DOCTORS SAY THEY'RE BOTH GOING TO BE FINE.

...I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT HIM.
I THOUGHT I COULD NEVER FORGIVE HIM.
IT'S TRUE...
I'M NOT SURE...I KNOW THE ANSWER TO THAT.
.....
JUST EXACTLY WHO IS HE?
EVEN IF HE DID SCARE ME...
BUT...HE PROTECTED YOU.
AT FIRST, I WAS SURE HE'D BETRAYED ME.
HE'D PUSH MY BUTTONS EVERYTIME WE MET.
ALL I WANTED... ALL I WANTED WAS TO RUN AWAY FROM HIM.
I'M NOT SO SURE HE'S SCARY...
HE ALSO...
LIKE MY BLOOD HAD TURNED TO ICE.
... SCARED ME, BUT...

...SOMEHOW IT LOOKED LIKE...
...HE WAS CRYING.
ALL THE PENT-UP ANGER I'VE HAD FOR HIM HAS DISAPPEARED...
AND ALL THAT'S LEFT IS THE IMAGE OF THAT FACE...
AT THAT MOMENT, I THOUGHT
...ALL I WANTED TO DO IS FORGIVE HIM FOR EVERYTHING.

WHATEVER ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
I SHOULD BE SAYING THE SAME.
WELL, I MUST BE HEADING BACK TO WORK.
SORRY FOR DRAGGING INTO THIS.
IT'S TAKEN ME THIS LONG TO REALIZE IT.
SEE YOU TOMOR-ROW.
I WON'T LOOK AWAY ANY LONGER.

I WANT TO KNOW...
YUUKI SHIN
201
...THE TRUTH THAT LIVES...
...INSIDE OF HIM.
GAME 6/OVER

gameXrush™ Mini-Theater

12 Years of Being Loved

THIS IS THE STORY OF THAT TIME IN MY LIFE...

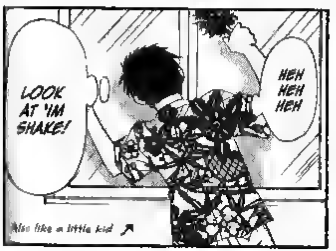
I WAS NERVOUS ABOUT HAVING A NEW FAMILY, BUT THE FUJIEDAS TREATED ME LIKE I WAS REALLY ONE OF THEIR OWN.

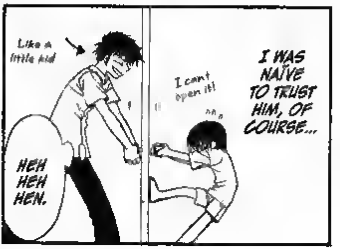
WHEN I WAS SEVEN YEARS OLD, I WAS TAKEN INTO THE FUJIEDA HOME.

THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS MONSTERS!
DADDY, THERE'S A MONSTER IN THE BATHTUB!
HE LOOKED LIKE A GANGSTER, ALMOST, BUT HE WAS SO COOL...
You're a man but it!
Come with me?

PROTECT YOU? YOU SHOULDN'T BE DOING SOMETHING THAT GETS YOU TARGETED IN THE FIRST PLACE!
HE ACTED MORE LIKE AN ASSASSIN THAN A BODY-GUARD

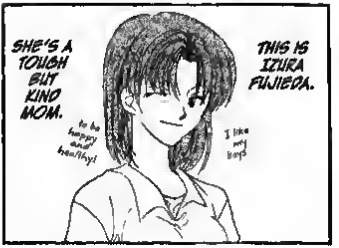
So they didn't have many of ants

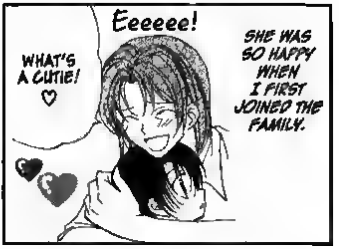


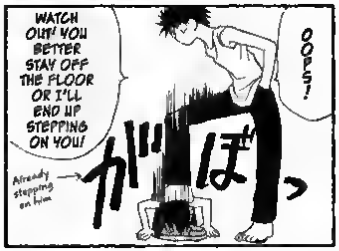


Much Ado About Shoes III

The Fujieda Family: Mother



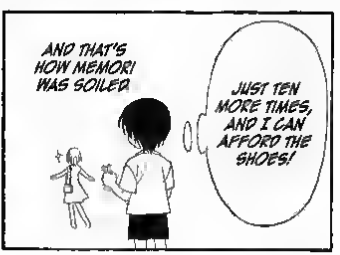




The hands off type

Much Ado About Shoes (3)

Much Ado About Shoes (2)



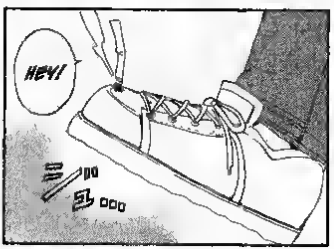
Much Ado About Shoes (5)

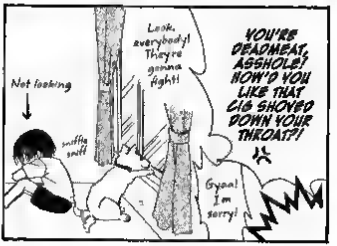
Much Ado About Shoes (4)

WHAT'S THAT? DAD DIDN'T GET ANY?
MY SHOES ARE ALL STINKY AND GROSS...
KENJU, QUIT SNOWING THOSE OFF. YOU'RE INTIMIDATING YOUR FATHER.
Heh, heh!

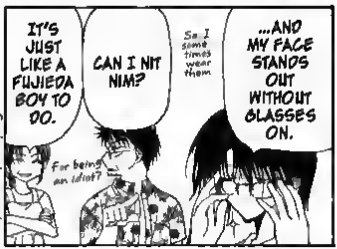
Much Ado About Shoes (7)

Much Ado About Shoes (8)




Look, everybody! They're gonna fight!
YOU'RE DEADMEAT, ASSHOLE! HOW'D YOU LIKE THAT CIG SHOVED DOWN YOUR THROAT?!
Not looking
sniffle sniff
Gyaa! I'm sorry!

12 Years of Being Loved


IT'S JUST LIKE A FUJIEDA BOY TO DO.
For being an idiot?
CAN I NIT NIM?
So I guess times wear them
...AND MY FACE STANDS OUT WITHOUT GLASSES ON.

Much Ado About Shoes (8)

Mini-Theater/End

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